

Jan. 6 Capitol probe

Trump chief of staff Meadows to provide documents, sit for deposition. **NEWS, PAGE 4**

Countering inflation

Powell says Fed may act more quickly on interest rate policies. **NEWS, PAGE 8**

Huskies win

UConn men pull away in 2nd half to defeat Maryland-Eastern Shore. **SPORTS, PAGE 1**

Partly sunny

Rain, snow possible overnight; high of 44. **SPORTS, PAGE 6**

Hartford Courant



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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2021

Lamont's wife pulling back on investments

Governor blames politics for ethical questions regarding her firm's dealings in Connecticut

By Christopher Keating and Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

UNCASVILLE — Gov. Ned Lamont said Tuesday his wife's investment firm is pulling back in Connecticut after critics questioned the move to Stamford of

a New York financial technology company that negotiated \$5 million in state aid.

Speaking to reporters following a speech to a gathering of municipal officials at the Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, the governor said Annie Lamont is finding it difficult to invest in Connecticut because

the combination of her work as an investor and his role as governor are dogged by ethical questions he blames on politics.

The governor has said little publicly until recently about his wife's investments through Oak HC/FT, a venture capital firm she founded. He said nothing on Monday about Annie Lamont's connection to the Digital Currency

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Gov. Ned Lamont said Tuesday his wife's investment firm had an early stake in a company moving to Stamford with \$5 million in state aid but currently has no involvement.
MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT



Father Michael Casey prays during a service inside St. Francis of Assisi Church in New Britain where the archdiocese will be closing several churches and consolidating operations in two others. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

'Deeper, not wider'

As New Britain loses several Catholic churches, Rev. Michael Casey sees small but intentional community growing together

By Don Stacom | Hartford Courant

The impending consolidation of several Catholic churches in New Britain will represent a loss in the number of buildings and weekend Masses, but ultimately could bring a greater unity among parishioners across the city, Rev. Michael Casey said Tuesday.

The Hartford Archdiocese announced this month that St. Jerome, St. John, St. Joseph and St. Francis of Assisi will remain operating as parish churches starting in January, all led by Casey.

Members of St. Maurice, St. Andrew and St. Peter are being invited to Masses there; their churches will be available for weddings and funerals for now, but most likely will be sold to reduce the costs of maintenance and repairs.

The reduction mirrors a nationwide pattern of dwindling membership, fewer donations and a shortage of priests. Once-thriving churches in and around older, larger cities across the Northeast and Midwest have been hit especially hard as parish priests reach retirement years.

Casey, 34, acknowledged that New Britain's consolidation will be difficult for parishioners accustomed to their own neighborhood

churches, but emphasized that nothing changes the core spiritual principles.

"The culture has changed. The legs of cultural Catholicism aren't there anymore," Casey said. "But the Gospel is eternal, no matter what changes in the world or in the church. It doesn't compromise the fact that the Gospel is the Gospel."

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"The culture has changed. The legs of cultural Catholicism aren't there anymore. But the Gospel is eternal, no matter what changes in the world or in the church. It doesn't compromise the fact that the Gospel is the Gospel."

— Rev. Michael Casey

Area high school football scoreboard

CLASS 1A
Shelton 42, Hall 28
New Canaan 38, Southington 14

CLASS 1B
St. Joseph 21, Hand 20 (OT)
Windsor 62, Cheney Tech 0
Maloney 49, Bristol Central 14

CLASS 2M
Branford 7, Avon 6
Rockville 27, Ellington 0
Torrington 37, Granby/Canton 29

CLASS 3S
Bloomfield 50, Morgan 18
Cromwell/Portland 29,
Notre Dame-Fairfield 20

Semifinal games Sunday;
championships Dec. 12.
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CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Test positivity rate at highest level since Jan.

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

Connecticut's daily COVID-19 test positivity rate spiked to almost 6% on Tuesday, the highest point for the metric since mid-January.

"I don't want to be a downer, but I spend a lot of time saying we're the most vaccinated,

least-infected state in the country — and we were for many, many months," Gov. Ned Lamont said during an appearance at the annual Connecticut Conference of Municipalities convention at the Mohegan Sun on Tuesday.

"It's really a pandemic of the unvaccinated."

COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have been on the rise

in Connecticut in recent weeks, likely fueled by colder weather, which makes respiratory viruses more transmissible and leads to increased indoor gatherings. Tuesday's elevated daily test positivity rate came the day after Connecticut reported that the metric had reached 5.25%, its highest point in more than 10 months.

After his speech to 700 municipal leaders, Lamont told reporters that he was "concerned" about the spike. He added that he does not blame the increase on the recent Thanksgiving holiday — which will not be reflected in COVID-19 data for another week or so — or on omicron, the newly identified

Turn to Outbreak, Page 2

HUSKIES FOR THE HOLIDAYS



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Lamont

from Page 1

Group when he announced the company's move to Connecticut at an early morning news conference in Stamford.

When asked if financial investments were not worth the effort due to political criticism, Lamont said, "I think you got it about right."

"Annie is in Nashville, setting up companies there, because Connecticut is pretty complicated," he said. "It's probably a lot easier to start up that groundbreaking business in Nashville than it is in Stamford."

The Lamonts have not said how much Oak HC/FT, a private firm, invested in the Digital Currency Group. The investment in Sema4 was valued at \$66 million earlier this year.

On Monday, Lamont announced the move of Digital Currency

Group, or DCG, to Stamford from New York. Annie Lamont sold her financial interest in the blockchain technology company in April.

DCG has several investors, among them Oak HC/FT, the venture capital firm where Annie Lamont is managing partner.

Blockchain is a ledger where transactions of cryptocurrencies, such as Bitcoin, are recorded. It functions like a chain of digital "blocks" with records of transactions.

The questions and criticism from some Republicans followed by several days of similar questions about investments in Sema4, a health data company, by Annie Lamont's venture capital firm. It's one of four companies that received a state contract for COVID-19 testing.

Lamont said his family has not made any profit from Sema4 and he renewed his pledge to donate earnings to charity.

The governor, speaking to

reporters following remarks at an earlier event at the UConn School of Business in Hartford, said his wife's firm sold its interest six months ago "not at a big gain but a lot less than what it sold for just a couple of months later. So stop repeating the lies coming from political opponents."

David Lehman, commissioner of economic development, believed DCG would be an "amazing asset" to add to tech companies setting up headquarters in Connecticut, Lamont said. It received the "exact same formulaic earn-as-you grow incentives as most other companies get."

Lehman said in an interview Tuesday he was introduced to DCG in October 2020 by Stamford's economic development director, Thomas Madden. A letter of intent to commit to Connecticut was signed in August, four months after Annie Lamont's firm sold its investment, he said.

Lehman said the governor and

Annie Lamont recused themselves from negotiations with DCG.

A few Republicans on Twitter cited DCG's move shortly after disclosures of investments by Annie Lamont's firm in Sema4, a health care tech company that has a state contract to perform COVID-19 testing in Connecticut.

Lamont said his wife had disclosed DCG to state ethics officials as one of 1,000 companies on a special list.

"Digital Currency Group is one of really dozens of great companies that have moved to the state over the last year," Lamont said. "This is a real contrast to the UBS building, which is sitting empty, which is old finance. DCG is new finance."

DCG was one of about 1,000 companies on a so-called "recusal list" that later was removed because the Lamonts no longer had any ownership, the governor said.

He called DCG the "most significant cryptocurrency company in the world." It could have located "anywhere they wanted to" and chose Connecticut, he said.

"I was celebrating that fact," Lamont said. "Did we get any financial benefit out of that? No, but Connecticut gets a big benefit."

The governor said he and his wife own "about .01% of Sema4, despitewhat you read in the press and what you hear from political opponents who have not created a job in this state."

Lamont said an alternative would have been to not award a state contract to Sema4, one of four companies testing for COVID-19, and do less testing and no genetic sequencing.

The state's ethics office found no conflict of interest with the state contract with Sema4.

Christopher Keating can be reached at ckeating@courant.com.

Outbreak

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COVID-19 variant which is spreading worldwide but has yet to be reported in Connecticut.

"The 6% is the highest we've been in close to a year — this is in a state that is the most vaccinated in the country," he said. "More and more people are getting the booster. That's really good news. Maybe we were a little complacent a month ago. We're not complacent now."

Cases and positivity rate

Connecticut reported 907 new COVID-19 cases out of 15,224 tests administered since Monday, for a daily positivity rate of 5.96%, the highest rate since Jan. 15. The state's weekly positivity rate now stands at 4.43%, the highest since Jan. 27.

The state has now averaged 851 cases per day over the past week, the highest in a seven-day span since April 25.

All eight Connecticut counties — as well as the vast majority of those in the Northeast region — are currently recording "high" levels of COVID-19 transmission as



COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have been on the rise in Connecticut in recent weeks, likely fueled by colder weather, which makes respiratory viruses more transmissible and leads to increased indoor gatherings. FILE

defined by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With this level of transmission, the CDC advises people to wear a mask in public indoor settings.

Hospitalizations

Connecticut reported 365 patients hospitalized with COVID-19 on Tuesday, an

increase of 11 individuals since Monday.

Hospital officials say the vast majority of those hospitalized with serious COVID-19 symp-

toms are unvaccinated.

Deaths

Connecticut reports COVID-19 deaths once a week, typically on Thursdays. Last week, the state reported 31 additional deaths, bringing its total during the pandemic to 8,865.

The United States has now recorded 779,172 deaths related to COVID-19, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

Vaccinations

Connecticut remains among the most vaccinated states in the country. As of Tuesday, 83.9% of all Connecticut residents and 94.2% of those 12 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 71.9% of all residents and 82.5% of those 12 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Additionally, 25.1% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents 18 or older have received a booster dose.

Courant staff reporter Christopher Keating contributed to this report.

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LOTTERY

Tuesday, Nov. 30

PLAY3 DAY 7 9 9 **WB: 5** **PLAY4 DAY** 0 8 1 1 **WB: 8**

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

MONDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT

4 3 0 **WB: 5**

PLAY4 NIGHT

8 6 1 4 **WB: 8**

CASH 5

11 23 27 33 34

LUCKY FOR LIFE

16 17 22 25 29 **LB: 13**

Friday's est. Lotto jackpot: \$2.3 million

Tonight's est. Powerball jackpot: \$264 million

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FROM PAGE ONE



Deacon Jim Arena leads a service at St. Francis of Assisi Church in New Britain. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

Churches

from Page 1

Casey visited each parish in the city in November to talk with parishioners about the future. Consistently he focused on the importance of the people of each parish.

"The people are more important than the buildings. No matter how much we care about the buildings, the people are more important," he said. "If you have a family, the family is more important than the home they live in. You invest in your home, you love it. But the people are more important. If something happened to the home, God forbid, you want the family to be saved before you want the building to be saved."

In his tour of the parishes, Casey has heard a mix of optimistic voices

along with concerns and frustrations about what is happening. He is promoting a theme of each church's membership being as welcoming and inviting as possible, particularly with the likelihood that further consolidation may be ahead.

In a letter to all parishioners in November, Archbishop Leonard Blair said the archdiocese faces challenges.

"I am referring to the diminishing practice of the Faith and of church attendance by any number of Catholics, which is matched by the ever diminishing number of priests to serve our parishes, many of which were established in the heyday of Catholic practice and of housing and population expansion in Connecticut," Archbishop Blair wrote.

"Recognizing that even four church campuses will be impos-

sible to sustain in the long term, a soon-to-be-formed 'transition committee' made up of parishioners of a new entity will discern the proper needs and location of churches, halls, rectories, etc. as it all unfolds," he wrote.

Along with serving as pastor at St. Francis, Casey has been chaplain for Central Connecticut State University. The small but deeply involved groups from the university reflect an important part of the church's future, he said.

"There's a vision that the campus ministry be more united to parish life. Just over the three and a half years we've done that it's been incredible to see lifelong parishioners now getting to meet the university students who come to pray, supporting each other," he said.

"And we have a great young adult

group. Small groups can have the most impact," he said. "I see confidence, a new ardor and joy in our young people — they want to invite their friends here. They don't say 'look at our poor dying church,' they say 'we have 40 to 50 of our friends here, this is good.' It may be small but it's intentional, it's strong, it's committed — it's not wider, but it's deeper."

Casey will serve at the St. Francis rectory with Rev. Daniel Wojtun, who will become chaplain for the Hospital of Central Connecticut, and Rev. Eduar Gutierrez, who will serve as the associate parish priest.

Casey acknowledged they will be working long hours.

"The goal is to spread the Gospel, to provide sacraments for the people and get to know them. I can't do that sitting on the couch watching Netflix," he said.

There will be five Masses each weekend, including one Saturday evening. There will be one at each church on Sunday mornings at staggered times. Casey said he was happy to hear parishioners ask that the priests have enough buffer between the Masses to ensure time to speak with people before and after. In response, he dropped plans for 8, 9, 10 and 11 a.m. services, instead scheduling for 7:30, 9, 10 and 11:30 a.m.

"We had town halls in each parish, and I loved seeing how the plan changed. The people elected to have the Masses spaced out more — they don't want the priest just running between Masses," he said.

"They want the priest to be there early, get set up, celebrate the Mass without rushing, then stay and talk with people after and have a coffee social. Again: deeper, not wider."

Shooting

from Page 1

attack, authorities said.

"Deputies confronted him, he had the weapon on him, they took him into custody," McCabe said, adding that suspect wasn't hurt when he was taken into custody.

The suspect "invoked his right not to speak" and asked for a lawyer, McCabe said.

Authorities didn't immediately release the names of the suspect or victims.

The school was placed on lockdown after the attack, with some children sheltering in locked classrooms while officers searched the premises. They were later taken to a nearby grocery store to be picked up by their parents.

Isabel Flores told WJBK-TV that she and other students heard gunshots and saw another student bleed from the face.

They then ran from the area through the rear of the school, said Flores, a 15-year-old ninth grader.

McCabe said investigators would be looking through social media posts for any evidence of a possible motive.

Robin Redding said her son, Treshan Bryant, is a 12th grader at the school but stayed home on Tuesday. She said he had heard threats of a shooting at the school.

"This couldn't be just random," she said.

Redding didn't provide specifics about what her son had heard, but she expressed concern with school safety in general.

"Kids just, like they're just mad at each other at this school," she



Parents unite with their children after a shooting at Oxford High School in Michigan. ERIC SEALS/DETROIT FREE PRESS

said.

Bryant said he texted several younger cousins in the morning and they said they didn't want to go to school, and he got a bad feeling. He asked his mom if he could

do his assignments online.

Bryant said he had heard vague threats "for a long time now" about plans for a shooting at the school.

"You're not supposed to play about that," he said of the threats.

"This is real life."

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer was one of several elected officials who expressed condolences to the victims.

"Gun violence is a public health

crisis that claims lives every day. We have the tools to reduce gun violence in Michigan. This is a time for us to come together and help our children feel safe at school," she said in a statement.



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Findings reshape omicron timeline

Variant appears to have been in Europe before S. Africa alert

By Raf Casert and Andrew Meldrum
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Brazil and Japan joined the rapidly widening circle of countries to report cases of the omicron variant Tuesday, while new findings indicate the mutant coronavirus was already in Europe close to a week before South Africa sounded the alarm.

The Netherlands' RIVM health institute disclosed that patient samples dating from Nov. 19 and 23 were found to contain the variant. It was on Nov. 24 that South African authorities reported the existence of the highly mutated virus to the World Health Organization.

That indicates omicron had a bigger head start in the Netherlands than previously believed.

Together with the cases in Japan and Brazil, the finding illustrates the difficulty in containing the virus in an age of jet travel and economic globalization. And it left the world once again whipsawed between hopes of returning to normal and fears that the worst is yet to come.

The pandemic has shown repeatedly that the virus "travels quickly because of our globalized, interconnected world," said Dr. Albert Ko, an infectious disease specialist at the Yale School of Public Health. Until the vaccination drive reaches every country, "we're going to be in this situation again and again."

Brazil, which has recorded a staggering total of



Passengers at a train station Tuesday in Berlin, where authorities restored orders to wear face masks. MARKUS SCHREIBER/AP

more than 600,000 COVID-19 deaths, reported finding the variant in two travelers returning from South Africa the first known omicron cases in Latin America. The travelers were tested on Nov. 25, authorities said.

Japan announced its first case, too, on the same day the country put a ban on all foreign visitors into effect. The patient was identified as a Namibian diplomat who had recently arrived from his homeland.

France likewise recorded its first case, in the Indian Ocean island territory of Reunion. Authorities said the patient was a man who had returned to Reunion from South Africa and

Mozambique on Nov. 20.

Much remains unknown about the new variant, including whether it is more contagious, as some health authorities suspect, whether it makes people more seriously ill, and whether it can thwart the vaccine.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the United States' top infectious disease expert, said much more will be known in the next several weeks, and "we'll have a much better picture of what the challenge is ahead of us."

In the meantime, a WHO official warned that given the growing number of omicron cases in South Africa and neighboring Botswana, parts of southern

Africa could soon see infections skyrocket.

"There is a possibility that really we're going to be seeing a serious doubling or tripling of the cases as we move along or as the week unfolds," said Dr. Nicky Gumede-Moeletsi, a WHO regional virologist.

Cases began to increase rapidly in mid-November in South Africa, which is now seeing nearly 3,000 confirmed new infections per day.

Before news of the Brazil cases broke, Fauci said 226 omicron cases had been confirmed in 20 countries, adding: "I think you're going to expect to see those numbers change rapidly."

Those countries include Britain, 11 European Union nations, Australia, Canada, Britain and Israel. American disease trackers said omicron could already be in the U.S., too, and probably will be detected soon.

"I am expecting it any day now," said Scott Becker of the Association of Public Health Laboratories. "We expect it is here."

While the variant was first identified by South African researchers, it is unclear where and when it originated, information that could help shed light on how fast it spreads.

The announcement from the Dutch on Tuesday could shape that timeline.

Previously, the Netherlands said it found the variant among passengers who came from South Africa on Friday, the same day the Dutch and other EU members began imposing flight bans and other restrictions on southern Africa. But the newly identified cases predate that.

NOS, the Netherlands' public broadcaster, said that one of the two omicron samples came from a person who had been in southern Africa.

Belgium reported a case involving a traveler who returned to the country from Egypt on Nov. 11 but did not become sick with mild symptoms until Nov. 22.

Many health officials tried to calm fears, insisting vaccines remain the best defense and that the world must redouble efforts to spread the shots worldwide.

Emer Cooke, chief of the European Medicines Agency, said that the 27-nation EU is well prepared for the variant and that the vaccine could be adapted for use against omicron within three or four months if necessary.

England reacted to the emerging threat by making face coverings mandatory again on public transportation and in stores, banks and hair salons.

World markets seesawed on every piece of medical news, whether worrisome or reassuring. Stocks fell on Wall Street over virus fears as well as concerns about the Federal Reserve's continued efforts to shore up the markets.

Some analysts think a serious economic downturn will probably be averted because many people have been vaccinated.

Meadows to cooperate with probe

Trump's chief of staff will be deposed, turn over documents

By Luke Broadwater
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — Mark Meadows, who was White House chief of staff under former President Donald Trump, has reached an agreement with the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol to provide documents and sit for a deposition, the panel said Tuesday, a stunning reversal for a crucial witness in the inquiry.

The change of stance for Meadows, who had previously refused to cooperate with the committee in line with a directive from Trump, came as the panel prepared to seek criminal contempt of Congress charges against a second witness who has stonewalled its subpoenas. It marked a turnaround after weeks of private wrangling between the former chief of

staff and the select committee over whether he would participate in the investigation, and to what degree.

"Mr. Meadows has been engaging with the select committee through his attorney," Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., the chair of the panel, said in a statement. "He has produced records to the committee and will soon appear for an initial deposition."

Thompson indicated that he was withholding judgment about whether Meadows was willing to cooperate sufficiently, adding, "The committee will continue to assess his degree of compliance with our subpoena after the deposition."

His deposition is expected to be private, as has been the panel's practice with other witnesses. Meadows' lawyer, George J. Terwilliger III, also suggested that there were strict limits to his client's willingness to participate in the inquiry.

"As we have from the

beginning, we continue to work with the select committee and its staff to see if we can reach an accommodation that does not require Mr. Meadows to waive executive privilege or to forfeit the long-standing position that senior White House aides cannot be compelled to testify before Congress," Terwilliger said in a statement. "We appreciate the select committee's openness to receiving voluntary responses on non-privileged topics."

Meanwhile, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit heard arguments Tuesday from lawyers for Trump and the House committee seeking records as part of its investigation into the Capitol riot. Trump's attorneys want the court to reverse a federal judge's ruling allowing the National Archives and Records Administration to turn over the records after President Joe Biden waived executive privilege.

A panel of judges ques-

tioned whether they had the authority to grant Trump's demands and stop the White House from allowing the release of documents related to the Jan. 6 insurrection led by Trump's supporters.

But the judges also noted that there may be times when a former president would be justified in trying to stop the incumbent from disclosing records.

Trump supporters broke into the Capitol on Jan. 6 after a rally where he made false claims of election fraud and challenged them to "fight like hell."

Compared with U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan, whose ruling Trump is contesting, the three judges on the appeals court spent relatively little time weighing the importance of the documents themselves. They instead focused most of the hearing Tuesday on what role federal courts should have when an incumbent president and former president are at odds over records from the former's

administration.

The judges sharply questioned both sides and challenged them with hypothetical scenarios.

To Trump's lawyers,

Judge Patricia Millett

suggested a situation where

a current president negoti-

ating with a foreign leader

needed to know what prom-

ises a former president had

made to that leader. The

incumbent might seek to

release a transcript of a

phone call or other records

from the previous adminis-

tration for national security

reasons, the judge said.

"To be clear, your position is a former president could come in and file a lawsuit?" Millett said. Trump lawyer Justin Clark responded,

"That is our position."

To a lawyer for the House committee, Millett raised

a scenario where a newly

elected president might seek

retribution against a disliked

predecessor. The new pres-

ident and a Congress might

declare that there was a

national security interest in

releasing all of the former president's records, even at the risk of endangering people's lives, she said.

"Needless to say, the former president comes to court, (says), 'Hang on,'" Millett said. "What happens?"

She did not say she was referring to any president and rejected committee lawyer Douglas Letter's response referencing a president who "fomented an insurrection."

"We're not going to make it that easy," she said.

Letter argued the deter-
mination of a current pres-
ident should outweigh
predecessors in almost
all circumstances and
noted that both Biden and
Congress were in agree-
ment that the Jan. 6 records
should be turned over.

"It would be astonishing
for this court to override
the current president and
Congress," Letter said.

Associated Press contrib-

FDA health panel backs Merck's COVID-19 pill

But experts advise pregnant women not to take drug

By Matthew Perrone
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A panel of U.S. health advisers Tuesday narrowly backed a closely watched COVID-19 pill from Merck, setting the stage for a likely authorization of the first drug that Americans could take at home to treat the coronavirus.

A Food and Drug Administration panel voted 13-10 that the drug's benefits outweigh its risks, including potential birth defects if used during pregnancy.

The recommendation came after hours of debate about the drug's modest benefits and potential safety issues. Experts backing the treatment stressed that it

should not be used by anyone who is pregnant and called on the FDA to recommend extra precautions before the drug is prescribed, including pregnancy tests for women of child-bearing age.

The vote specifically backed the drug for adults with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 who face the greatest risks, including older people and those with conditions like obesity and asthma.

Most experts also said the drug shouldn't be used in vaccinated patients, who weren't part of the study and haven't been shown to benefit.

The FDA isn't bound by the panel's recommendation and is expected to make its own decision before year's end. The pill is already authorized in the U.K.

The drug, molnupiravir, could provide a much-needed weapon against

the virus as colder weather pushes case counts higher and U.S. officials brace for the arrival of the new omicron variant.

Merck hasn't specifically tested its drug against the new variant but said it should have some potency based on its effectiveness against other strains of coronavirus.

But that uncertainty frustrated many panelists as they grappled with whether to back the treatment for millions of Americans.

"With no data saying it works with new variants I really think we need to be careful about saying that this is the way to go," said Dr. David Hardy of Charles Drew University School of Medicine and Science, who ultimately voted to back the drug.

The panel's narrow-but-positive recommendation came despite new data from Merck that paint a less

compelling picture of the drug's effectiveness than just a few weeks earlier.

Last week, Merck said final study results showed molnupiravir reduced hospitalization and death by 30% among adults infected with the coronavirus, when compared with adults taking a placebo. That effect was significantly less than the 50% reduction it first announced based on incomplete results.

That smaller-than-expected benefit amplified experts' concerns about the drug's toxicity for fetuses.

FDA scientists told the panelists earlier Tuesday that company studies in rats showed the drug caused toxicity and birth defects when given at very high doses. Taken together, FDA staffers concluded the data "suggest that molnupiravir may cause fetal harm when administered to pregnant

individuals."

The FDA is weighing a blanket restriction against any use in pregnant women or allowing it in rare cases.

Some panelists said the

option should be left open for

pregnant mothers who have

high-risk COVID-19 and may

have few other treatment

options.

Dr. Janet Cragan, who backed the drug, said that even with tight restrictions some pregnant women would inevitably take the drug.

Merck's drug uses a novel approach to fight COVID-19: It inserts tiny errors into the virus's genetic code to stop it from reproducing. That genetic effect has raised concerns that the drug could spur more virulent strains of the virus. But FDA regulators said Tuesday that risk seems unlikely.

While Merck and its partner, Ridgeback Biotherapeu-

tics, were the first to submit their COVID-19 pill to the FDA, rival drugmaker Pfizer is close behind with its own pill under review.

Pfizer's drug is part of a decades-old family of anti-viral pills known as protease inhibitors, a standard treatment for HIV and hepatitis C. They work differently than Merck's pill and haven't been linked to the kind of mutation concerns raised with Merck's drug.

Pfizer said this week that its drug shouldn't be affected by the omicron variant's mutations.

The federal government has agreed to buy 10 million treatment courses of Pfizer's drug, if it's authorized. That's more than three times the government's purchase deal with Merck for 3.1 million courses of molnupiravir. Both drugs require patients to take multiple pills, twice a day for five days.

WORLD & NATION

Smugglers net millions from migrant trade

Fees during travel can include tents, food and life vests

By Lori Hinnant
and Danica Kirka
Associated Press

CALAIS, France — The price to cross the English Channel varies according to the network of smugglers, between 3,000 and 7,000 euros, or about \$3,380 and \$8,000, though there are rumors of discounts.

Often, the fee also includes a very short-term tent rental in the windy dunes of northern France and food cooked over fires that sputter in the rain that falls for more than half the month of November in the Calais region.

Sometimes, but not always, it includes a life vest and fuel for the outboard motor.

And the people who collect the money — up to \$432,000 per boat that makes it across the narrows of the Channel — are not the ones arrested in the periodic raids along the coastline. They are just what French police call “the little hands.”

Now, French authorities are hoping to move up the chain of command. The French judicial investigation into last week’s sinking that killed 27 people has been turned over to Paris-based prosecutors who specialize in organized crime.

To cross the 20-mile narrow point of the Channel, the rubber dinghies must navigate frigid waters and passing cargo ships. As of Nov. 17, 23,000 people had crossed successfully, according to Britain’s Home Office. France intercepted about 19,000 people.

At a minimum, then, smuggling organizations this year have netted \$77.7 million for the crossing — that’s \$3.9 million per mile.

“This has become so profitable for criminals that it’s going to take a phenomenal



Migrants wait for food to be distributed last month at a camp in Calais, located in northern France. CHRISTOPHE ENA/AP

amount of effort to shift it,” the U.K. Home Office’s Dan O’Mahoney told Parliament on Nov. 17.

Between coronavirus and Brexit, “this is a golden age for the smugglers and organized crime because the countries are in disarray,” said Mimi Vu, an expert on Vietnamese migration who regularly spends time in the camps of northern France.

“Think of it like a shipping and logistics company,” Vu said.

The leg through central Europe can cost around \$4,500, according to Austrian authorities who on Saturday announced the arrest of 15 people suspected of smuggling Syrian, Lebanese and Egyptian migrants into the country in vanloads of 12 to 15 people.

The suspects transported more than 700 people at a total cost of more than \$2.8 million, police said. In this network, the migrants were bound for Germany.

The alleged smugglers

— from Moldova, Ukraine and Uzbekistan — were recruited in their home countries via ads on social media offering work as drivers for \$2,250-3,380 a month.

The men handling the last leg are essentially just making the final delivery. If arrested, they are replaceable, Vu said.

Frontex, the European border agency, echoed that in a 2021 risk report that describes the operational leaders as managers who “are able to orchestrate the criminal business from a distance, while mostly exposing low-level criminals involved in transport and logistics to law enforcement detection.”

The chain starts in the

home country, usually with an agreed-upon price, arranged over social media. That fee tends to shift over the journey, but most willingly pay extra as their destination grows closer, she said. That’s precisely when the

logistics grow more complicated.

Channel crossings by sea were relatively rare until a few years ago, when French and British authorities locked down the area around the Eurotunnel entrance. The deaths of 39 Vietnamese migrants in the back of a container truck may also have contributed to a new reluctance to use that route.

But the first attempts

were disorganized, using small inflatables and even kayaks bought at the local Decathlon sports store.

“At the beginning, it’s always the pioneers,” said Nando Sigona, professor of international migration and forced displacement at the University of Birmingham. “But once it started to seem that it was working for a number of people, you could see the bigger players came to be involved.”

One migrant from Sudan, who would only give his name as Yasir, had been

trying for three years to get to the U.K.

While shaking his head about the tragedy, he pointed out that other methods of smuggling, such as hiding on a truck, were also dangerous.

“You could break a leg,” he said. “You can die.”

As dangerous as the sea voyage might prove, it seemed to many migrants to be safer than other options. The only thing preventing it is the cost, which he had heard was 1,200 euros, or \$1,350.

“We don’t have any

money,” Yasir said. “If I had money, I’d go to the boat.”

Police cracked down on local boat purchases, and the larger inflatables started to show up, hauled by the dozens inside cars and vans with German and Belgian tags, police said. France’s interior minister, Gerald Darmanin, said a car with German tags was seized in connection with the investigation.

Police raids on the camps to pull down tents and disrupt operations have given smugglers yet another chance to make money, said Nikolai Posner, of the aid group Utopia 56. Now, the fee includes a short-term tent rental and access to basic food, usually cooked over an open fire.

“There is one solution to stop all this, the deaths, the smugglers, the camps. Make a humanitarian corridor,” said Posner. He said asylum requests should be easier on both sides of the Channel.

In part because of Brexit and coronavirus, expulsions from the U.K. this year dropped to just five people, according to the Home Office. Vu said people who are intercepted at sea or land by British border forces end up in migrant centers, but usually just get back in touch with the smuggling networks and end up working black market jobs.

That’s the complaint in France, where the interior minister said British employers appear more than happy to hire under the table, providing yet another financial incentive.

“If they’re in Calais, it’s to get to Britain, and the only people who can guarantee them passage are these networks of smugglers,” said Ludovic Hochart, a Calais-based police officer with the Alliance union. “The motivation to get to England is stronger than the dangers that await.”

On Sunday ministers from

France, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and EU officials will meet to search for solutions. But, with

France and Britain at sharp odds over migration, fishing and how to rebuild a working relationship after Brexit, there is one notable absence: a British delegation.

For Vu, that’s a missed opportunity: “This is transnational crime. It spans many borders and it’s not up to only one country to solve it.”



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Latinos targeted by misinformation

Ongoing threat is expected heading into '22 elections

By Amanda Seitz and Will Weissert
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Before last year's presidential election, Facebook ads targeting Latino voters described Joe Biden as a communist. During his inauguration, another conspiracy theory spread online and on Spanish-language radio warning that a brooch worn by Lady Gaga signaled Biden was working with shadowy, leftist figures abroad.

And in the final stretch of Virginia's election for governor, stories written in Spanish accused Biden of ordering a man's arrest at a school board meeting.

None of that was true. But such misinformation represents a growing threat to Democrats, who are anxious about their standing with Latino voters after losses last year in places like South Florida and the Rio Grande Valley in Texas.

Heading into a midterm election in which control of Congress is at stake, lawmakers, researchers and activists are preparing for another onslaught of falsehoods targeted at Spanish-speaking voters. And they say social media platforms that often host those mistruths aren't prepared.

"For a lot of people, there's a lot of concern that 2022 will be another big wave," said Guy Mentel, executive director of Global Americans, a think tank that provides analysis of key issues in the Americas.

Last month's elections may be a preview of what's to come.

After Democratic incumbent Phil Murphy won New Jersey's close governor's race, Spanish-language videos falsely claimed the vote was rigged, despite no evidence of widespread voter fraud — a fact



A sign in Spanish is seen near voters as they cast their ballots south of downtown Denver. DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP 2020

the Republican candidate acknowledged, calling the results "legal and fair."

In Virginia, where Republican Glenn Youngkin campaigned successfully on promises to defend "parental rights" in classrooms, false headlines around a controversial school board meeting emerged.

"Biden ordenó arrestar a un padre de una joven violada por un trans," read one of several misleading articles, translating to "Biden ordered the arrest of a father whose daughter was raped by a trans."

The mistruth was spun from an altercation during a chaotic school board meeting months earlier in Loudoun County that resulted in the arrest of a father whose daughter was sexually assaulted in a bathroom by another student. The father claimed the suspect was "gender fluid," which sparked outcry over the school's policy allowing transgender students to use

bathrooms matching their gender identity.

In reality, the White House wasn't involved with the meeting. The man was arrested by the local sheriff's department. It's also unclear how the suspect identifies.

Stretched truths accusing some Democrats of being socialists or communists could also dominate the online narrative, said Diego Groisman, a research analyst at New York University's Cybersecurity for Democracy project.

During the 2020 election, Groisman flagged Facebook ads targeting Latino voters in Texas and Florida that described Biden as a "communist." The ads in Florida — where a majority of the country's Venezuelan population is concentrated — compared Biden to that country's socialist President Nicolas Maduro.

"There were clearly specific Spanish-speaking communities that were being targeted," said Laura

Edelson, the lead researcher for NYU's program.

Evelyn Perez-Verdia, a Florida Democratic strategist who watches Spanish misinformation patterns, says many online narratives intentionally stoke "fear in the Spanish-speaking communities."

One conspiracy theory mentioned on talk radio grew out of Lady Gaga's golden bird brooch at Biden's inauguration. Some spreading the claim noted a similar brooch once worn by Claudia Lopez Hernandez, the first openly gay mayor of Bogota, Colombia, signaled the new president was working with foreign leftists.

"They're not going to stop. They're going to double down on it," Perez-Verdia said of the misinformation.

Critics argue that social media companies like Meta, which owns Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, have placed outsize attention on removing or

fact-checking misinformation in English over other languages like Spanish.

Facebook's own documents, leaked by former Facebook employee-turned-whistleblower Frances Haugen this year, echo those concerns. Haugen said the company spends 87% of its misinformation budget on U.S. content — a figure Meta spokesperson Kevin McAllister said is "out of context."

An internal Facebook memo, written in March, revealed the company's ability to detect anti-vaccine rhetoric and misinformation was "basically non-existent" in non-English comments.

Last year, Instagram and Facebook banned "#pandemic," a hashtag associated with a video full of COVID-19 conspiracy theories.

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An analysis in 2020 by Avaaz, a left-leaning advocacy group that tracks online misinformation, also found Facebook failed to flag 70% of Spanish-language misinformation surrounding COVID-19 compared to just 29% of such information in English.

McAllister said the company removes false Spanish-language claims about voter fraud, COVID-19 and vaccines. Four news outlets, including Associated Press, also fact-check Spanish-language falsehoods circulating around U.S. content on Instagram and Facebook.

Meanwhile, researchers at the nonpartisan Global Disinformation Index estimated that Google will make \$12 million this year off ads on websites that peddled COVID-19 disinformation in Spanish. Google has "stopped serving ads on a majority of the pages shared in the report," company spokesperson Michael Aciman said in an email.

"Spanish-language misinformation campaigns are absolutely exploding on social media platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, etc.," New York Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, one of the party's top progressive voices, tweeted after the Nov. 2 election.

That explosion is fueled in part by a U.S.-Latin America feedback loop that allows falsehoods to fester.

Misinformation that starts on U.S. websites is sometimes translated by social media pages in Latin American countries. The inaccuracies are shared back through YouTube videos or messaging apps with Spanish speakers in expatriate communities like those in Miami and Houston.

Those falsehoods are more likely to reach U.S. Latinos because they tend to spend more time on sites such as YouTube, WhatsApp, Instagram and Telegram, according to an October Nielsen report.



Prime Minister Mia Mottley, left, and President Sandra Mason, right, honor singer Rihanna on Tuesday after the island nation of Barbados became a republic. JEFF J MITCHELL/PA

Barbados becomes a republic after cutting ties with queen

By Livia Albeck-Ripka
The New York Times

Early Tuesday, at a ceremony attended by hundreds of masked officials, a prince and at least one pop star, the Caribbean island of Barbados became a republic, cutting ties with Queen Elizabeth II and casting off the last major vestige of its colonial past.

The nation swore in its first president, Sandra Mason, a former governor general who had been appointed by the queen. A 21-gun salute rang out as the national anthem played. The red, yellow and navy blue royal flag was lowered — exactly 55 years after the country gained independence from Britain.

"Today, debate and discourse have become action," Mason, 72, told the onlookers gathered in the capital, Bridgetown. "Today, we set our compass to a new direction."

Mason received a majority vote in Parliament in October to take on the role. In a speech afterward, Prime Minister Mia Mottley said: "We believe that the time has come for us to claim our full destiny.

It is a woman of the soil to whom this honor is being given."

A democracy of about 300,000 people, Barbados said in September it would remove Queen Elizabeth as head of state, the latest Caribbean island to do so. It joined Guyana, which gained independence in 1966 and became a republic in 1970; Trinidad and Tobago, which became independent in 1962 and a republic in 1976; and Dominica, which gained full independence as a republic in 1978.

Australia, Canada, Jamaica, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea are among the nations that still call the queen their head of state. Barbados will remain part of the Commonwealth, a voluntary association of 54 countries with roots in the British Empire.

Fireworks peppered the sky at midnight as Barbados ended nearly 400 years of British rule. Screens were set up across the island so people could watch the event that featured an orchestra with more than 100 steel pan players and numerous singers, poets and dancers. It was also

broadcast online, prompting a flurry of excited messages from Bahans living in the U.S., Canada and beyond.

In the audience to witness the uncoupling was a representative of Britain: Prince Charles, Elizabeth's eldest son and heir. He received the Order of Freedom of Barbados.

In a speech, Charles delivered a message from his mother, conveying the "warmest good wishes." He also congratulated Barbadians and said, "From the darkest days of our past, and the appalling atrocity of slavery, which forever stains our history, the people of this island forged their path with extraordinary fortitude."

"Tonight you write the next chapter of your nation's story," he added. "You are the guardians of our heritage."

Also among the crowd was the global pop star Rihanna. During the ceremony, the singer, who was born Robyn Rihanna Fenty in Barbados, was declared a national hero.

Associated Press contributed.

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Celebrity surgeon to make a run for Pa.'s open Senate seat

By Marc Levy
Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Dr. Mehmet Oz, the celebrity heart surgeon best known as the host of TV's "Dr. Oz Show" after rocketing to fame on Oprah Winfrey's show, announced Tuesday that he is running for Pennsylvania's open U.S. Senate seat as a Republican.

Oz, 61, will bring his prominent name recognition and wealth to a race that is expected to be among the nation's most competitive and could determine control of the Senate in next year's election.

Oz, a longtime New Jersey resident, enters a Republican field that is resetting with an influx of candidates and a new opportunity to appeal to voters loyal to former President Donald Trump, now that the candidate endorsed by Trump has recently exited the race.

In a video on social media, Oz casts himself as a sort of champion for people's health, who "took on the medical establishment to argue against costly drugs and skyrocketing medical bills" and is prepared to fight a government that he said has mishandled the COVID-19 pandemic.

Oz also makes a pitch to Trump loyalists — and possibly Trump — by invoking Trump's slogan for his governing philosophy, "America first."

"As a heart surgeon, I know how precious life is," Oz says. "Pennsylvania needs a conservative who will put America first, one who can reignite our divine spark, bravely fight for freedom and tell it like it is."

Oz in recent days has told associates and Republicans in Pennsylvania of his plans and, according to a TV show spokesperson, has lived and voted in Pennsylvania since last year.

As one of the nation's biggest presidential elec-



GOP hopeful Dr. Mehmet Oz. RICCARDO SAVI/GETTY

toral prizes, Pennsylvania put Democrat Joe Biden over the top in last year's presidential election. His 1 percentage point victory put the swing state back in Democratic hands after Trump won it even more narrowly in 2016.

Oz is also the author of New York Times bestsellers, an Emmy-winning TV show host, radio talk show host, presidential appointee, founder of a national nonprofit to educate teens about healthy habits and self-styled ambassador for wellness.

He was appointed by Trump to the presidential Council on Sports, Fitness and Nutrition and helped save a dying man at Newark Liberty International Airport last winter.

Still, Oz may have to explain why he isn't running for office in New Jersey, where he practices medicine and has lived for the past two decades before he began voting in Pennsylvania's elections this year by absentee ballot, registered to his in-laws' address in suburban Philadelphia.

Oz's appetite to expand his business portfolio is voracious, with critics saying he often promotes questionable products and medical advice.

He has been dogged by accusations that he is a charlatan selling "quack

treatments and cures in the interest of personal financial gain," a group of doctors wrote in 2015 in a letter calling for his firing from Columbia University's medical school.

He wasn't fired.

Oz began making appearances on Fox News after the start of the pandemic, and in the spring of 2020 came under fire for comments suggesting that reopening schools might be worth the extra deaths, because it "may only cost us 2% to 3% in terms of total mortality."

Researchers from the University of Alberta found in 2014 that, of 80 randomly selected recommendations from Oz's shows, often dietary advice, roughly half was unsupported by evidence, or contradicted by it.

As Oz enters the race, a hedge fund CEO who lives in Connecticut, David McCormick, is working his way across Pennsylvania this week meeting with Republican officials in expectation of returning to his native state to run.

The most prominent Republicans already running are conservative commentator Kathy Barnette, real estate investor Jeff Bartos and Carla Sands, Trump's wealthy ambassador to Denmark who recently returned to her native Pennsylvania after spending most of the past four decades in California.

Only Bartos has run statewide in Pennsylvania, as lieutenant governor on the GOP's losing gubernatorial ticket in 2018.

The Democratic field features candidates with more electoral experience — and far less personal wealth — than the Republican field.

Their best-known candidates are John Fetterman, the state's lieutenant governor, and U.S. Rep. Conor Lamb of suburban Pittsburgh.

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Putin warns the West: Moscow has 'red line' about Ukraine, NATO

From news services

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday sternly warned NATO against deploying its troops and weapons to Ukraine, saying it represents a "red line" for Russia and would trigger a strong response.

Commenting on Western concerns about Russia's alleged intention to invade Ukraine, he said that Moscow is equally worried about NATO drills near its borders.

Speaking to participants of an online investment forum, Putin said NATO's eastward expansion has threatened Russia's core security interests. He expressed concern that NATO could eventually use the Ukrainian territory to deploy missiles capable of reaching Moscow in five minutes.

"The emergence of such threats represents a 'red line' for us," Putin said.

He added that Russia has been forced to counter the growing threats by developing new hypersonic weapons.

"What should we do?" Putin said. "We would need to develop something similar to target those who threaten us. And we can do that even now."

He said a new hypersonic missile that is set to enter service with the Russian navy early next year would be capable of reaching targets in comparable time.

Ukrainian and Western officials expressed worries last month that a Russian military buildup near Ukraine could signal plans by Moscow to invade its ex-Soviet neighbor. NATO foreign ministers warned Russia on Tuesday that any attempt to further destabilize Ukraine would be a costly mistake.

The Kremlin has insisted it has no such intention and has accused Ukraine and its Western backers of making the claims to cover up their own allegedly aggressive designs.

Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014 after the country's Kremlin-friendly president was driven from power by mass protests and also threw its weight behind a separatist insurgency that broke out in Ukraine's east.

Iran nuclear talks: Iran struck a hard line Tuesday after just one day of restarted talks in Vienna over its tattered nuclear deal, suggesting everything discussed in previous rounds of diplomacy could be renegotiated.

Speaking to Iranian state television, Ali Bagheri, Iran's top nuclear negotiator, referred to everything discussed thus far as merely a "draft." It remained unclear whether that represented an opening gambit by Iran's new president or signaled serious trouble for those hoping to restore the 2015 deal that saw Tehran strictly limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

The United States left the deal under then-President Donald Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign against Tehran in 2018. Since the deal's collapse, Iran now enriches small amounts of uranium up to 60% purity — a short step from weapons-grade levels of 90%. Iran also spins advanced centrifuges barred by the accord, and its uranium stockpile now far exceeds the accord's limits.

President Joe Biden has said America is willing to reenter the deal, though the negotiations continue with U.S. officials not in the room as in previous rounds of talks since Washington's withdrawal.



Members of France's Air and Space Force carry the cenotaph of Josephine Baker for her symbolic induction Tuesday at the Pantheon in Paris. Baker, the U.S.-born entertainer, anti-Nazi spy and civil rights activist, is the first Black woman to receive France's highest honor. The body of Baker, who died in 1975 at age 68, will remain in Monaco. **SARAH MEYSSONNIER/POOL VIA AP**

Wife of 'El Chapo': The wife of Mexican drug kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman was sentenced Tuesday to three years in prison after pleading guilty to helping her husband run his multibillion-dollar criminal empire.

Emma Coronel Aispuro, 32, also helped her husband plan an escape through a tunnel dug underneath a prison in Mexico in 2015 by smuggling a GPS watch to him disguised as a food item, prosecutors said during a hearing in federal court in Washington. That helped those digging the tunnel pinpoint his location and reach him. He was recaptured the following year.

Author apologizes: Author Alice Sebold publicly apologized Tuesday to the man who was exonerated last week in the 1981 rape that was the basis for her memoir

"Lucky" and said she was struggling with the role she played "within a system that sent an innocent man to jail."

Anthony Broadwater, 61, was convicted in 1982 of raping Sebold when she was a student at Syracuse University. He served 16 years in prison. His conviction was overturned Nov. 22 after prosecutors reexamined the case and determined there were serious flaws in his arrest and trial.

In a statement released to The Associated Press and later posted on Medium, Sebold, the author of "The Lovely Bones" and "The Almost Moon," wrote to Broadwater that she was sorry for what he'd been through.

In a statement issued by his lawyers, Broadwater said he was "relieved that she has apologized."

Colombia rebels: The Biden administration formally revoked the terrorist designation of Colombia's former FARC guer-

illa army on Tuesday, but newly imposed the designation on commanders and offshoots of the group who have refused to lay down their arms.

Lifting of the terrorist designation for FARC — the commonly used Spanish acronym of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia — comes five years after the guerrilla army signed a peace deal aimed at winding down a half-century of political attacks and fighting, assassinations and kidnappings. Colombia says more than 220,000 people died in violence that was fueled by profits from drug trafficking.

The foreign terrorist designation prohibits any foreign financial organizations from providing significant financial services to the targeted entities and makes it a crime to provide any material support to them.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement that FARC "no longer exists as a unified organization that engages in

terrorism or terrorist activity or has the capability or intent to do so."

FARC today is designated as a political party, with a guaranteed share of seats in Colombia's legislature.

CNN suspension: CNN said Tuesday that it was suspending anchor Chris Cuomo indefinitely after details emerged about how he helped his brother, former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, as he faced charges of sexual harassment.

CNN said documents released by New York's attorney general Monday indicated a greater level in his brother's efforts than the network previously knew.

The anchor had pressed sources for information on his brother's accusers and reported back to the governor's staff, and was active helping craft their response to the charges, according to emails and a transcript of his testimony to investigators working for New York's attorney general.

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BUSINESS

COURANT.COM / BUSINESS

Powell: Fed may quicken reduction of bond buys

Chair also acknowledges high inflation expected to persist well into 2022

By Christopher Rugaber

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Chair Jerome Powell said Tuesday that the Federal Reserve will consider acting more quickly to dial back its ultra-low-interest rate policies to counter higher inflation, which Powell acknowledged will likely persist well into next year.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen also testified before the Senate Banking panel and urged Congress to raise the nation's borrowing limit. Yellen has previously warned that without a hike in the debt ceiling, the U.S. government could default on its debt obligations for the first time soon after Dec. 15.

"America must pay its bills on time and in full. If we do not, we will eviscerate our current recovery," Yellen said.

Congress is expected to address the borrowing limit and also faces a Friday deadline to provide enough funding to keep the federal government open.

The Fed has begun reducing its monthly bond purchases, which are intended to

lower longer-term borrowing costs, at a pace that would end those purchases in June. But Powell made clear that Fed officials will discuss paring those purchases more quickly when it next meets in mid-December.

Doing so would put the Fed on a path to begin raising its key short-term rate as early as the first half of next year. A higher Fed rate would, in turn, raise borrowing costs for mortgages, credit cards and some business loans.

"The economy is very strong and inflationary pressures are high," Powell said at a Senate Banking Committee hearing. "It is therefore appropriate, in my view, to consider wrapping up the taper of our asset purchases ... perhaps a few months sooner."

Powell said the Fed should know more about the potential economic impact of the omicron variant of the coronavirus in time for that next meeting. But he suggested that for now, omicron hasn't been factored into the Fed's economic outlook.

The emergence of a potentially dangerous new COVID-19 variant could make

Powell's job harder and more complicated next year. If omicron leads to another wave of factory and port shutdowns in the United States and overseas and to a reversal of the back-to-office return for many workers, Americans might keep spending heavily on goods such as furniture, appliances and cars. That trend would likely worsen supply bottlenecks and raise prices even more.

At the same time, the variant could renew fears among many workers about becoming infected on the job. More resignations might then follow at a time when the rate of job quitting is at record highs. This would risk weakening the job market and the economy. Under such a scenario, the Fed's dual mandates of stable prices and maximum employment could come into conflict.

Under fire from some Senate Republicans about worsening consumer inflation, which reached a three-decade high last month, Powell acknowledged that price increases have been worse than the Fed expected and will last longer than the policymakers initially thought. As a result, he said, the term "transitory" no longer works.

Inflation in 19 nations using euro hits record

By Pan Pylas

Associated Press

LONDON — Consumer prices across the 19 countries that use the euro currency are rising at a record rate as a result of a huge spike in energy costs this year, official figures showed Tuesday.

Eurostat, the European Union's statistics agency, said the eurozone's annual inflation rate hit 4.9% in November, the highest since recordkeeping began in 1997 and up from 4.1% in October, the previous high mark.

Like others, the eurozone, which is made up of 19 economies including France and Germany, is enduring big price hikes as a result of the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and blockages in supply chains.

Across the eurozone, inflation is running at multiyear highs, including in Germany, Europe's largest economy, where the annual rate has hit 6%. Even that is below the 6.2% recorded at last count in the U.S., the biggest 12-month jump since 1990.

The eurozone's core inflation rate, which strips out potentially volatile items such as alcohol, energy, food and tobacco, also spiked higher in November to an annual rate of 2.6% from 2%.

Under normal circumstances, the increases would likely pile pressure on the European Central Bank to start mulling the prospect of raising its main interest rate from a record low of zero. The bank is tasked with setting policy to meet a 2% inflation target.

But the omicron variant has prompted some uncertainty over the global economic outlook. As a result, central banks around the world are expected to hold back from announcing any big policy changes soon. Were the variant to start affecting growth levels, then prices, such as oil, would likely drift lower, easing inflation rates worldwide.



Shipping containers filled with thousands of bottles of wine are loaded onto a freight train Saturday at Tilbury Docks in London. As Britain continues to face problems in its supply chain, distributors and retailers are looking for creative fixes. ANDREW TESTA/THE NEW YORK TIMES

A wine rack hits the tracks

UK businesses seek solutions to shortages as government works to 'save Christmas'

By Stephen Castle and Jenny Gross

The New York Times

TILBURY, England — It is called the "wine train" and every weekend it rumbles out of the port of Tilbury, east of London, on a 100-mile journey to a depot in central England. It looks pretty much like any other freight train, but it carries an unusual cargo: almost 650,000 bottles of wine.

This 32-car, 1,600-foot-long traveling wine rack is the latest, and one of the more creative, answers to the supply shortages that have bedeviled Britain and caused the government to fret about disruptions to the Christmas holiday.

On Saturday night, in biting winds and rain, a small team of workers toiled beneath floodlights, using giant machinery to lift heavy containers filled with wine into place. The train would deliver it to a terminal in Daventry, from where it will be distributed to some of the country's leading supermarkets.

The wine train has been running from

this busy port for a month or so, reducing the reliance on truck drivers, who have been in short supply in Britain, and ensuring that Britons will at least have a decent stock of alcohol during the holiday.

But two months after gas and food shortages caused shudders of anxiety across the country, Britain still faces challenges in its supply chain. A lack of truck drivers, combined with global shipping delays, product shortages, the pandemic and Brexit restrictions, have left some supermarket shelves bare and retailers warning that not every Christmas gift will be available.

The worries about the holiday season have only been worsened by the discovery of three cases of the new coronavirus variant in Britain. On Saturday, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that masks would be mandatory in shops and on public transportation and that travelers arriving from abroad would face some new rules.

But he said he was confident that Christmas would be "considerably better" than last year. Businesses including toy shops, coffee shops and butchers report being short-staffed, and 7 in 10 have reported differences in food shopping, including finding less variety in stores, according to government data released last week. Short-

ages are patchwork and random across the country, adding to the guesswork.

On Nov. 24, the Cold Chain Federation, which represents firms that store and distribute frozen food, warned that consumers could have fewer choices this Christmas.

Amid continuing disruption, the government says that it is determined to "save Christmas" — as some British newspapers have put it. On Nov. 23, one senior minister, Stephen Barclay, assured colleagues at a Cabinet meeting that there would be enough turkeys for festive dinners. That was in doubt just weeks ago when farmers were warning of shortages.

Wine distributors are not the only ones getting creative to ensure that their products reach customers for the holidays. One supermarket chain, Tesco, has started using a rail service running from Valencia, Spain, through France, to Barking, near London, to transport lettuce, fruit and vegetables.

Tesco also transports supplies on the giant wine train. And Freightliner, the company that runs the train, said in a statement that it was receiving more inquiries to move goods by rail — because of the trucker shortage and a desire to decarbonize the transportation of goods.

UK orders Facebook's parent to sell Giphy

By Adam Satariano

The New York Times

British antitrust regulators on Tuesday ordered Facebook's parent company Meta to sell the animated images library Giphy, escalating the country's efforts to push back against the growing power of the world's largest technology companies.

The Competition and Markets Authority said the acquisition of Giphy, which Meta bought last year, reduced competition between social media platforms and in the display advertising market, which Facebook dominates and where Giphy was beginning to expand before the deal.

Though the animated images, known as

GIFs, are often silly clips and memes shared in text messages and social media posts — like Homer Simpson slinking back into a hedge — authorities concluded that Meta's acquisition could cause serious harm to competition.

Giphy is a dominant platform for creating and sharing GIFs, and regulators warned that if Meta restricted access to its vast archive of images it would further solidify Meta's leadership position in social media.

Meta's services, including Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram, account for 73% of user time spent on social media in Britain, regulators said. The overall company was known as Facebook until a name change in October.

The Competition and Markets Authority said its order was legally binding and

should result in Meta selling all of Giphy, not just the piece of its business in Britain.

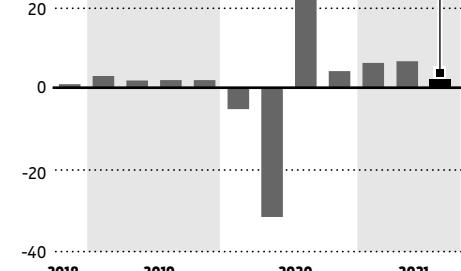
Meta's ownership of Giphy allows the company "to increase its significant market power in social media even further, through controlling competitors' access to Giphy GIFs," Stuart McIntosh, chair of the team investigating the deal, said in a statement. By ordering the sale, "we are protecting millions of social media users and promoting competition and innovation in digital advertising."

Meta has four weeks to decide whether to appeal. "We disagree with this decision," the company said in a statement Tuesday.

The effort to reverse the Giphy acquisition is another step Britain is taking against the biggest tech companies.

GDP

Percent change from previous quarter, seasonally adjusted, second estimate:



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

TNS

BUSINESS

Frontier adding nonstop routes to Cancun, San Juan

By Kenneth R. Gosselin
Hartford Courant

Low-cost carrier Frontier Airlines will add two more nonstop routes at Bradley International Airport this winter, as the state's largest airport sees more signs of an uptick in travel even as COVID-19 persists.

Frontier will add nonstop destinations to Cancun, Mexico and San Juan, Puerto Rico in mid-February, bringing the airline's nonstop routes at Bradley to seven. The existing routes include Atlanta, Denver, Miami, Orlando and Raleigh-Durham. Frontier returned service to Bradley in 2019 and has steadily added more routes.

"Attracting new, nonstop flights is a top priority, and in the competitive route development market, we thank Frontier Airlines for their continued partnership," Kevin A. Dillon, executive director of the Connecticut Airport Authority, which oversees Bradley's operations, said Tuesday, in a release.

The new routes come as Bradley saw a return

of airline bookings this summer, driven mostly by leisure travel. Business travel — largely sidelined in the pandemic — is expected to return only slowly. It is unclear when — or if — business travel will return to levels before the pandemic as COVID-19 spurred the adoption of virtual meetings.

The number of air passengers passing through Bradley in September, the latest month available, was 443,421. That compares with 520,470 for the same month in 2019, before the onset of the pandemic, a 15% decline but a far narrower gap than earlier in 2021.

With its new flights, Frontier will step up the competition with existing airlines at Bradley that offer the same nonstop destinations. JetBlue and Delta serve Cancun, and JetBlue also flies to San Juan.

Competition among airlines vying for bookings can lead to lower fares for consumers, depending on the level of demand.

Frontier will fly out of Bradley to Cancun International Airport beginning

Attracting new, nonstop flights is a top priority.

— Kevin A. Dillon, executive director of the Connecticut Airport Authority

Feb. 17 and will operate seasonally, three times a week.

A check of Frontier's website Tuesday showed the cost round-trip ticket to Cancun departing on Feb. 17 and returning a week later was \$191, including taxes and fees. The ticket price jumped to \$715 if travel was delayed a day but with the same return date.

The airline will launch year-round service from Bradley to San Juan three times a week on Feb. 18. A round-trip fare for that date is listed on the website for \$233 with taxes and fees, with a return a week later. The round-trip fare rose to \$450 when travel was delayed a day.

Ken Gosselin can be reached at kgosselin@courant.com.

Wall Street grudgingly allows remote work as bankers dig in

By Lananh Nguyen
The New York Times

NEW YORK — In her two decades on Wall Street, Nadia Batchelor never once thought she could do her job from home.

Face-to-face meetings were a must for Batchelor, a senior executive at Jefferies, a New York investment bank.

Without being in the same room as her clients and colleagues, she assumed, there was no way she could win their trust and do her job of introducing companies to potential investors.

She often woke up at 4:30 a.m. to drive from her home in New Jersey, catch a bus into Manhattan, hop on the subway, squeeze in a workout and get to Jefferies' trading floor by 7:30 a.m.

Work dinners ran late into the night, and redeye flights to London were common.

But after the pandemic forced Batchelor, a 42-year-old mother of three, to work from home and realize that she could manage just fine, a full return to her grueling schedule is out.

"I was crazy," she said. "I don't think that I could go back to it."



Nadia Batchelor, a senior banking executive, used to have a grueling commute to and from work. **ANDREW SENG/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

with their employees' demands for flexibility as the pandemic reshapes the future of work. But on Wall Street — known for its hard-charging culture that values face time and long hours, and where toughness is celebrated — it is remarkable.

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Wall Street is in revolt.

Across the financial industry, workers are slow-walking their return to the office. Bankers for whom working from home

was once unfathomable now cannot imagine going back to the office full-time. Parents remain worried about transmitting the coronavirus to their children. Suburban dwellers are chafing at the thought of resuming long commutes. And many younger employees prefer to work remotely.

The reluctance to return is hardly unique to the financial industry.

All across America, companies are wrestling

"The bigger institutions are having more difficulty getting people back," said Kathryn Wyde, CEO of the Partnership for New York City. "From the employer perspective, the longer this goes on, the more difficult it is to get people back, the greater their frustration."

Some large banks ordered their employees to begin returning to the office over the summer. Top bosses have been saying for months that their clients should be catered to in person, that banking is an apprenticeship business where juniors learn by observing their seniors, and that teamwork benefits all.

Their orders have had mixed impact.

For now, banks are resorting to coaxing and coddling.

Food trucks, free meals and snacks are occasionally on offer, as are complimentary Uber and Lyft rides. Dress codes have been relaxed. Major firms have adopted safety protocols such as on-site testing and mask mandates in common areas.

Goldman, Morgan Stanley and Citigroup are requiring vaccinations for workers entering their offices, while Bank of America asked only inoculated staff back after Labor Day.

JPMorgan has not mandated vaccines for workers to return to the office.

Remote working arrangements are also emerging as a consideration for workers interviewing for new jobs, said Alan Johnson, managing director of Johnson Associates, a Wall Street compensation consultancy.

Traditional banks have not changed their pitch much, he said. "You have to dress up, it's in the office five days a week, it's just the 1990s all over again."

In contrast, younger firms offer more flexibility, he said.

Mohegan Gaming finalizes \$1.5B financing for South Korea project

Associated Press

Mohegan Gaming & Entertainment, the corporation that owns the Mohegan Tribe's various gambling enterprises, announced Monday it has completed the \$1.5 billion in financing needed to develop the first stage of a casino and entertainment resort in South Korea.

The initial phase of the Inspire Entertainment Resort, to be built on Yeong-

jong Island in Incheon, South Korea, about 25 miles from Seoul, is targeted to open in 2023. It is expected to include more than 1,200 guest rooms in three hotel towers, a 15,000-seat arena, a foreigners-only casino, an indoor water park, convention facilities and other amenities.

Bobby Soper, international president for MGE, said the corporation is anticipating a "significant rebound in the tourism and

leisure industry following the pandemic."

The Mohegan Tribe owns and operates Connecticut's Mohegan Sun, one of the largest casinos in North America.

The Mohegans were awarded a license by the South Korean government in 2016 to develop a \$5 billion resort at Incheon International Airport. It will be the tribal corporation's first international project.

MARKET RUNDOWN

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

DOW
34,483.72 -652.22

10-YR T-BOND
1.44% -0.08

GOLD
\$1,773.60 -8.70



Commodities			
FUELS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
Crude Oil (bbl)	66.18	69.95	+36.40%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	4.57	4.85	+79.87%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	1.98	2.08	+39.25%
METALS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
Gold (oz)	1,773.60	1,782.30	-6.31%
Silver (oz)	22.77	22.80	-13.55%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange		Money Rates	
ForEx in U.S. \$	U.S. \$ in ForEx	CLOSE	PREV. WK.
Britain	1.3282	.7529	Prime rate 3.25 3.25
Canada	.7821	1.2786	3-mo. T-Bill 0.05 0.05
China	.1571	6.3643	6-mo. T-Bill 0.10 0.07
Euro	1.1323	.8832	5-yr T-Note 1.14 1.33
Japan	.008841	113.12	10-yr T-Note 1.44 1.63
Mexico	.046617	21.4514	30-yr T-Bond 1.78 1.97

Global Markets				
CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD	
Frankfurt	15,100.13	-180.73	-1.18%	+10.07%
London	7,059.45	-50.50	-.71%	+9.27%
Hong Kong	23,475.26	-376.98	-1.58%	-13.79%
Nikkei	27,821.76	-462.16	-1.63%	+1.38%

Stocks of Local Interest

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	YTD
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	33.94	-2.90	+1500.9	
AT&T Inc (T)	22.83	-1.06	-20.6	
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	158.37	-3.54	+72.7	
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	17.69	-.05	+12.2	
Amphenol Corp (APH)	80.58	-2.35	-2.9	
Annaly Capital Mgmt (NLY)	8.10	-.25	-4.1	
Apple Inc (AAPL)	165.30	+5.06	+24.6	
Ardelyx Inc (ARDX)	1.14	+.28	+82.4	
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	50.62	-.66	+11.4	
Bank of America (BAC)	44.47	-.12	+46.7	
Barnes Group (B)	43.45	-.80	-14.3	
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2101.85	-80.16	-5.6	
Brist My Sgb (BMY)	53.63	-.01	-13.5	
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	89.06	-.26	+30.4	
Carnival Corp (CCL)	17.62	-.54	-18.7	
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	54.12	-.86	+43.3	
Charter Communic (CHTR)	646.28	-21.91	-2.3	
Cigna Corp (CI)	191.90	-.77	-7.8	
Cisco Syst (CSCO)	54.84	-.92	+22.5	
Citigroup (C)	63.70	-.14	+3.3	
Clover Hlth Inv (CLOV)	4.96	-.12	-68.8	
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	49.98	-.155	-4.6	
ContextLogix Inc (WISH)	3.73	-.23	-79.6	
Cumberland Pharm (CPIX)	5.03	+2.83	+70.5	
Disney (DIS)	144.90	-2.91	-20.0	
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	119.34	-.26	+30.5	
Ethan Allen (ETD)	22.50	-.23	+11.3	
Eversource Energy (ES)	82.27	-3.00	-4.9	
Exxon Mobil Corp (XOM)	59.84	-.75	+45.2	
First Wave BioPharm (FWBI)	2.05	+.16	+118.3	
Ford Motor (F)	19.19	-.48	-25.7	</td

OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

Tucker Carlson's 'Patriot Purge' was the final straw



Jonah Goldberg

I quit Fox News after more than a decade as a contributor. So did my business partner and friend Steve Hayes.

We explained our reasons on the Dispatch, a media company we founded. But the decision was a long time in coming. Like Ernest Hemingway's description of bankruptcy, it came gradually and then suddenly.

The sudden part came thanks to Fox host Tucker Carlson's streaming special "Patriot Purge." It's a perfect example of propaganda that weaves half-truths into a whole lie. It insinuates that the Jan. 6 riot at the Capitol might have been a "false flag operation," orchestrated by the FBI or the Deep State.

Worse, it suggests the Biden administration is coming for the real patriots — i.e. Trump voters. "The domestic war on terror is here," says one of the "experts" in "Patriot Purge." "It's coming after half of the country."

This dangerous nonsense was the

last straw for me (and Steve). It was an unhappy decision for us. We have many friends at the network, and there are many people, particularly on the news side, that do good, honest journalism.

People keep asking me, "Why'd it take you so long?" The short answer is we hoped — and had reason to believe — that Fox would get back on course, and we wanted to help get it there. If your view is that Fox News was always irredeemably bad, that explanation will fall flat. I can't help you there. But for us, the release of "Patriot Purge" was proof that waiting for Fox to get back on track would be like waiting for Godot.

I also have a broader point to make. As a fairly prominent critic of Donald Trump from the political right, one of my chief frustrations with Fox, and with cable news generally, is what you might call manufactured consensus.

Liberals are expected to be loyal Democrats and to criticize Republicans, and vice versa for conservatives. Superficially, that's understandable, even though it erases the fact that most of the interesting debates in America are intra-partisan. But here's the real problem. Opinion journalists are treated as interchangeable with partisan flacks who are literally paid to defend a party and its positions.

Over time, if you're not careful, it's easy

to internalize the idea that your job as an opinion journalist is to carry water for your party, at least on TV. The last thing a producer wants is some pundit offering nuanced criticism of his own side. Everything has to be a fight between the extremes. This dynamic has always existed at MSNBC and CNN as well as at Fox.

But Trump's ascendancy made things much worse at Fox. Because Trump is a thin-skinned narcissist, he has no tolerance for criticism, and neither do his very vocal fans among the viewers and the punditocracy. This is why he was a leading champion of "cancel culture," attacking conservative critics like Charles Krauthammer, George Will, Hayes and me.

Traditionally, conservatives — including conservative politicians — influence presidents by praising them when they make the right decisions and criticizing them when they don't. Trump was impervious to criticism, and over time, many conservatives stopped offering it and Fox stopped providing opportunities to present any kind of critique.

As a result, if you watched only Fox, particularly Fox prime time, you'd have little idea that even some very pro-Trump Republicans are nuanced about Trump. They might hate his enemies or like some of his policies, but they might also dislike

the way he handled COVID-19 or used Twitter to vent petty grievances. Such objections to Trump, however legitimate, were cast as left-wing propaganda or irrational Trump hatred — or both.

I've talked to scores of elected Republicans and conservative pundits, with opinions ranging from principled disagreement to outright contempt for Trump. But good luck getting many of them to say it publicly. The message, amplified constantly by Trump and his boosters, is that all "true" conservatives love Trump in every regard.

In the wake of the Jan. 6 riot, it became routine for Trump partisans to claim that criticism of his effort to steal the election amounted to an insult to everyone who voted for Trump, as if 74 million people voted for the riot and the lies that led to it.

That's the propagandistic mindset

behind that new "war on terror" nonsense. The government is not coming for "half the country" — it's lawfully prosecuting a few hundred people who broke the law Jan. 6. But we're supposed to believe that the Trump base is not merely indivisible but defined by a tiny sliver of the worst actors on the right. That's the real insult to the 74 million.

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The case against abortion



Ross Douthat

A striking thing about the American abortion debate is how little abortion itself is actually debated. The sensitivity and intimacy of the issue mean that most politicians and many pundits really don't like to talk about it.

The mental habits of polarization, the assumption that the other side is always acting with hidden motives or in bad faith, mean that accusations of hypocrisy or simple evil are more commonplace than direct engagement with the pro-choice or pro-life argument.

And the Supreme Court's outsize role in abortion policy means that the most politically important arguments are carried on by lawyers arguing constitutional theory, at one remove from the real heart of the debate.

But with the court set to hear Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, a direct challenge to Roe v. Wade, it seems worth letting the lawyers handle the meta-arguments and writing about the thing itself. So this essay will offer no political or constitutional analysis. It will simply try to state the pro-life case.

At the core of our legal system, you will find a promise that human beings should be protected from lethal violence. That promise is made in different ways by the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence; it's there in English common law, the Ten Commandments and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We dispute how the promise should be enforced, what penalties should be involved if it is broken and what crimes might deprive someone of the right to life. But the existence of the basic right, and a fundamental duty not to kill, is pretty close to bedrock.

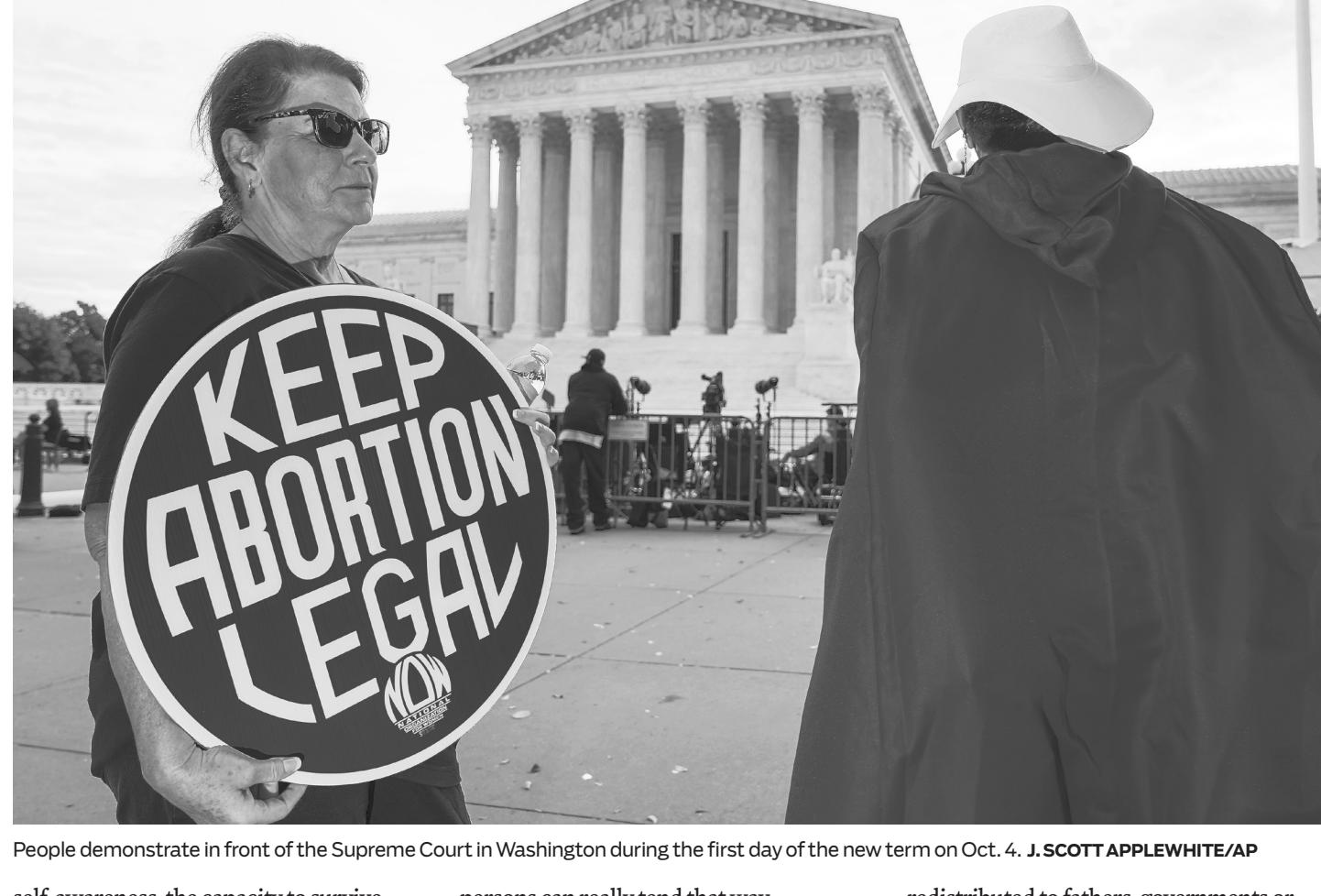
There is no way to seriously deny that abortion is a form of killing. At a less advanced stage of scientific understanding, it was possible to believe that the embryo or fetus was somehow inert or vegetative until so-called quickening, months into pregnancy. But we now know the embryo is not merely a cell with potential, like a sperm or ovum, or a constituent part of human tissue, like a skin cell. Rather, a distinct human organism comes into existence at conception, and every stage of your biological life, from infancy and childhood to middle age and beyond, is part of a single continuous process that began when you were just a zygote.

We know from embryology, in other words, not Scripture or philosophy, that abortion kills a unique member of the species *Homo sapiens*, an act that in almost every other context is forbidden by the law.

This means that the affirmative case for abortion rights is inherently exceptionalist, demanding a suspension of a principle that prevails in practically every other case. This does not automatically tell against it; exceptions as well as rules are part of law. But it means that there is a burden of proof on the pro-choice side to explain why in this case taking another human life is acceptable, indeed a protected right itself.

One way to clear this threshold would be to identify some quality that makes the unborn different *in kind* from other forms of human life — adult, infant, geriatric. You need an argument that acknowledges that the embryo is a distinct human organism but draws a credible distinction between human organisms and human persons, between the unborn lives you've excluded from the law's protection and the rest of the human race.

In this kind of pro-choice argument and theory, personhood is often associated with some property that's acquired well after conception: cognition, reason,



People demonstrate in front of the Supreme Court in Washington during the first day of the new term on Oct. 4. J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

self-awareness, the capacity to survive outside the womb. And a version of this idea, that human life is there in utero but human personhood develops later, fits intuitively with how many people react to a photo of an extremely early embryo (*It doesn't look human, does it?*) — though less so to a second-trimester fetus, where the physical resemblance to a newborn is more palpable.

But the problem with this position is that it's hard to identify what property is supposed to do the work of excluding the unborn from the ranks of humans whom it is wrong to kill. If full personhood is somehow rooted in reasoning capacity or self-consciousness, then all manner of adult human beings lack it or lose it at some point or another in their lives. If the capacity for survival and self-direction is essential, then every infant would lack personhood — to say nothing of the premature babies who are unviable without extreme medical interventions but regarded, rightly, as no less human for all that.

At its most rigorous, the organism-but-not-person argument seeks to identify some stage of neurological development that supposedly marks personhood's arrival — a transition equivalent in reverse to brain death at the end of life. But even setting aside the practical difficulties involved in identifying this point, we draw a legal line at brain death because it's understood to be irreversible, the moment at which the human organism's healthy function can never be restored. This is obviously not the case for an embryo on the cusp of higher brain functioning — and if you knew that a brain-dead but otherwise physically healthy person would spontaneously regain consciousness in two weeks, everyone would understand that the caregivers had an obligation to let those processes play out.

Or almost everyone, I should say. There are true rigorists who follow the logic of fetal nonpersonhood toward repugnant conclusions — for instance, that we ought to permit the euthanizing of severely disabled newborns, as philosopher Peter Singer has argued. This is why abortion opponents have warned of a slippery slope from abortion to infanticide and involuntary euthanasia; as pure logic, the position unborn human beings aren't human

persons can really tend that way.

But to their credit, only a small minority of abortion rights supporters are willing to be so ruthlessly consistent. Instead, most people on the pro-choice side are content to leave their rules of personhood a little hazy, and combine them with the second potent argument for abortion rights: namely, that regardless of the precise moral status of unborn human organisms, they cannot enjoy a legal right to life because that would strip away too many rights from women.

A world without legal abortion, in this view, effectively consigns women to second-class citizenship — their ambitions limited, their privacy compromised, their bodies conscripted, their claims to full equality a lie. These kind of arguments often imply that birth is the most relevant milestone for defining legal personhood — not because of anything that happens to the child but because it's the moment when its life ceases to impinge so dramatically on its mother.

There is a powerful case for some kind of feminism embedded in these claims. The question is whether that case requires abortion itself.

Certain goods that should be common to men and women cannot be achieved, it's true, if the law simply declares the sexes equal without giving weight to the disproportionate burdens that pregnancy imposes on women. Justice requires redistributing those burdens, through means both traditional and modern — holding men legally and financially responsible for all the children that they father and providing stronger financial and social support for motherhood at every stage.

But does this kind of justice for women require legal indifference to the claims of the unborn?

I think an honest look at the patterns of the past four decades reveals a multitude of different ways to offer women greater opportunities, a multitude of paths to equality and dignity — a multitude of ways to be a feminist, in other words, that do not require yoking its idealistic vision to hundreds of thousands of acts of violence every year.

It's also true, though, that nothing in all that multitude of policies will lift the irreducible burden of childbearing, the biological realities that simply cannot be

redistributed to fathers, governments or adoptive parents. And here, too, a portion of the pro-choice argument is correct: The unique nature of pregnancy means there has to be some limit on what state or society asks of women and some zone of privacy where the legal system fears to tread.

This is one reason the wisest anti-abortion legislation — and yes, pro-life legislation is not always wise — criminalizes the provision of abortion by third parties, rather than prosecuting the women who seek one. It's why anti-abortion laws are rightly deemed invasive and abusive when they lead to the investigation of suspicious-seeming miscarriages. It's why the general principle of legal protection for human life in utero may or must understandably give way in extreme cases, extreme burdens: the conception by rape, the life-threatening pregnancy.

Consider that when Texas put into effect this year a ban on most abortions after about six weeks, the state's abortions fell by half. I think the Texas law, which tries to evade the requirements of Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey by using private lawsuits for enforcement, is vulnerable to obvious critiques and liable to be abused. It's not a model I would ever cite for pro-life legislation.

But that immediate effect, that sharp drop in abortions, is why the pro-life movement makes legal protection its paramount goal.

According to researchers at the University of Texas at Austin, who surveyed the facilities that provide about 93% of all abortions in the state, there were 2,149 fewer legal abortions in Texas in the month the law went into effect than in the same month in 2020.

About half that number may end up still taking place, some estimates suggest, many of them in other states. But that still means that in a matter of months, more than 1,000 human beings will exist as legal persons, rights-bearing Texans — despite still being helpless, unreasoning and utterly dependent — who would not have existed had this law not given them protection.

But, in fact, they exist already. They existed, at our mercy, all along.

Douthat is a columnist for The New York Times.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Hartford

LEGAL NOTICE GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Glastonbury Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 2156 Main Street, Glastonbury, and/or by Zoom Video Conferencing to consider a \$125,000 appropriation and transfer from the General Fund-Unassigned Fund Balance for the Design Guideline project.

Dated at Glastonbury, CT this 29th day of November, 2021.

GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL
By: Thomas P. Gullotta, Chairman
12/1/21 7096752

Connecticut

Connecticut

BUDGET FOR THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022

	WATER	SEWER	TOTAL
District Board	268,000	257,500	525,500
Executive Office	1,567,167	1,505,900	3,073,067
Finance	752,570	723,100	1,475,670
Information Technology	3,579,365	3,438,200	7,018,565
Engineering and Planning	59,020	2,928,700	3,087,490
Water Treatment & Supply	557,532	535,600	1,093,132
Water Pollution Control	8,101,154	-	8,101,154
Laboratory Services	821,354	758,200	1,579,554
Maintenance	6,367,381	6,117,900	12,485,281
Chief Operating Office	390,354	375,000	765,354
Environment, Health and Safety	500,143	480,000	980,143
Command Center	2,917,195	1,502,800	4,419,995
Operations	9,805,634	3,268,600	13,074,234
Patrol	1,470,957	-	1,470,957
Debt Service	33,899,300	35,117,500	69,016,800
Employee Benefits	20,469,174	16,747,500	37,216,674
General Insurance	3,738,138	2,492,100	6,230,238
Taxes and Fees	3,810,500	-	3,810,500
Special Agreements and Programs	3,885,300	1,398,300	5,283,600
Contingencies	-	1,980,000	1,980,000
TOTAL WATER AND SEWER BUDGET	108,847,473	100,201,502	209,048,975

BUDGET REVENUES

Sale of Water and Other Operating Revenue	105,046,354	-	105,046,354
Capitalized Revenues	2,401,119	-	2,401,119
Contributions/Taxes from Other Funds	1,400,000	-	1,400,000
Tax on Member Municipalities	-	53,076,600	53,076,600
Revenue from Other Government Agencies	-	10,931,000	10,931,000
Other Sewer Revenues	-	18,212,000	18,212,000
Sewer User Charge Revenue	-	13,301,902	13,301,902
DEEP Contingency	-	1,980,000	1,980,000
Designated from Surplus	-	2,700,000	2,700,000
TOTAL 2022 BUDGET REVENUES	108,847,473	100,201,502	209,048,975

CAPITAL BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

	WATER	SEWER	COMBINED	TOTAL
General Purpose Water	2,200,000	-	-	2,200,000
Paving Program & Restoration	3,400,000	-	-	3,400,000
Boulevard & Garfield Rd WMR (Accelerated Plus)	10,000,000	-	-	10,000,000
Capitol Ave. Area Water Main Replacement	4,000,000	-	-	4,000,000
Hartford Hospital Area Water Main Replacement	11,500,000	-	-	11,500,000
Bishop's Corner Water Main Replacement	7,100,000	-	-	7,100,000
Advanced Water Treatment Rehabilitation and Improvement	3,900,000	-	-	3,900,000
Advanced Meter Reading Program	800,000	-	-	800,000
Water Service Inventory and Mapping	1,500,000	-	-	1,500,000
Raw Water Transmission Main Rehab	1,750,000	-	-	1,750,000
Neapaug Dam Concrete Rehab & Stability Improvements	250,000	-	-	250,000
Various Sewer Pipe Replacement/Rehabilitations	-	7,500,000	-	7,500,000
Hartford Large Diam. Sewer Rehabilitation Program - Phase 2	-	9,900,000	-	9,900,000
Easement Sewer Lining Program - Phase 3	-	6,200,000	-	6,200,000
Hartford Hospital Area Water Main Rehabilitation	-	600,000	-	600,000
Farmington 11 / Sisson Ave. Area WMR (sewer work)	-	1,100,000	-	1,100,000
Private Property Inflow Disconnect Program	-	2,100,000	-	2,100,000
Brookside Rd. Sanitary Pump Station Replacement	-	3,700,000	-	3,700,000
Fleet and Equipment Replacement and Upgrades	-	-	2,550,000	2,550,000
Inspection Services	-	-	2,500,000	2,500,000
Engineering Services	-	-	4,800,000	4,800,000
Construction Services	-	-	2,000,000	2,000,000
Technical Services	-	-	5,000,000	5,000,000
TOTAL 2022 CAPITAL BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS	46,650,000	31,100,000	16,850,000	94,600,000

CAPITAL BUDGET FUNDING

Funded from Bond or Note	
Proceeds and Other Sources	46,650,000

FUNDING - HYDROELECTRIC PROGRAM	403,700
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APPROPRIATION - HYDROELECTRIC PROGRAM	403,700
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OPERATION of the Hydroelectric Program	403,700
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FUNDING from Power Sales and Other Sources	403,700
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BOARD OF FINANCE
THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT
John S. Mirtle, Esq., District Clerk

11/29, 11/30, 12/01/21 7093878

LEGAL NOTICE Request for Proposal (RFP) # 2021-0911 for Best Practices in LGBTQ Tobacco Control

OBITUARIES BY TOWN

BERLIN

Alexandra Dempsey

BLOOMSFIELD

Leonard "Lenny" Persaud

BLOOMSFIELD

Leonard "Lenny" Persaud

BRISTOL

Lt. Charles McIntyre

BRISTOL

Robert Majewski

EAST HARTFORD

James "Jimmy" Passon III

FARMINGTON

Penelope Swain

Wanda Thompson

GLASTONBURY

Ramona McRae

HARTFORD

Mary Ann Citino

Hon. Edward O'Connell

Donald Obedzinski

Sr. Ellen Mary Shea, RSM

MANCHESTER

Elizabeth Euliano

MERIDEN

Elizabeth "Betty" Ewanowski

MIDDLETOWN

Elizabeth "Betty" Ewanowski

Thomas Grote, Sr.

NEW BRITAIN

Alexandra Dempsey

NEWINGTON

Rudolph Samek

Ramona McRae

Justin RAMOS

SOUTHINGTON

Shirley Badgley*

Robert J. Renkar

UNIONVILLE

Penelope Swain

WEST HARTFORD

Rudolph Samek

Sr. Ellen Mary Shea, RSM

WETHERSFIELD

Hon. Edward O'Connell

Hon. Edward O'Connell

Donald Obedzinski

Justin RAMOS

OTHER TOWN IN CT

Dolores "Laurie" Marconis

Todd R. Marin*

Roberta Majewski

OTHER TOWN IN CT

Thomas Grote, Sr.

Lt. Charles McIntyre

James "Jimmy" Passon III

OUT OF STATE

Mary Ann Citino

* Denotes name listing only.

Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Citino, Mary Ann

Mary Ann (Grossi) Citino 85 of Waxhaw, NC the wife of Frank Citino passed peacefully on Friday November 26, 2021 surrounded by her family.

Mary Ann was born in Hartford on September 8, 1936, to Angelina (Teti) Grossi and Giuseppe Grossi. Mary Ann attended Bulkeley High School.

Mary Ann and her husband Frank shared 67 memorable years together. Mary Ann lived most of her life in Hartford until she and Frank moved to South Windsor in 2004 and most recently to Waxhaw, NC with her son Joseph and daughter-in-law Laurie.

Mary Ann was very well known in the greater Hartford area as she and Frank were the proprietors of M & F Market, Danielle's Restaurant and then Francesco's restaurant all located in Hartford's south end.

During their retirement years, Mary Ann and Frank traveled far and wide. They enjoyed month long cruises to Europe where they made new friends. Trips to Italy, Hawaii, and San Francisco with their family. And road trips with their grand daughter Angela. And for the last twelve years, they wintered in Palm Springs, CA and summered on Cape Cod MA.

Mary Ann was taught by her father at an early age the importance of community involvement. As a result, Mary Ann became an advocate of democratic politics.

Mary Ann was well respected for both her insight and her influence in Connecticut politics. During her lifetime Mary Ann served as a democratic town committee chairwoman, she was also a past president of the Orders of the Sons and Daughters of Italy and past president of the democratic south-end ladies club of greater Hartford.

More importantly, Mary Ann was loved and respected by all who knew her.

Mary Ann was selfless always thinking of others first. Her home was often filled with laughter and lively discussion with family and friends. It was often said that her home resembled grand central station given the numbers of people who stopped by for a great meal and Frank's home-made wine.

Mary Ann's proudest accomplishment was her family. Family always came first with Mary Ann. Mary Ann was actively involved in all of her children's activities. She was a Cub Scout and Boy Scout leader and a Brownie and Girl Scout leader. She could always be counted on to serve as chaperone on the many school trips taken by both her children and grand children.

Mary Ann loved to celebrate holidays, even Flag Day. Mary Ann loved to dress herself and her children for Halloween often times making their costumes. Her children still talk about their creative and award winning costumes.

Christmas Eve dinners at Mom's were notable for their classic Italian fare of the seven fishes. Flag Day was one that was cherished by her grand children and great children, when their Nonni would dress them in patriotic outfits, and teach them all of the patriotic songs. They would then hold their own patriotic parade waving flags and singing together the songs our mom loved.

Mary Ann leaves to remember and celebrate her life, her husband Frank, her three daughters Elizabeth Citino (Karen Anton) Truro, MA, Linda Saundry (Edward) Newington, Dawn Meucci (Jeffrey) Wethersfield and her two sons Frank (Nancy) Citino, Wethersfield Joseph (Laurie) Citino, Waxhaw, NC.

Mary Ann was blessed with 12 grand children, Anthony and Dominic Meucci, Michael and Frank Beers, Lisa and Eddie Saundry, Danielle Newman, Angela Egan, Nicole DiGirolamo, Dawn Baeza, Joseph and Frank Citino. Mary Ann was blessed to also have 14 great grand children. Mary Ann's children, grand children and great grand children were the light and loves of her life.

Mary Ann also leaves her dearest cousin and lifelong friend Dolores DelCampo and her dearest friend Michelle Pacquette. She also leaves her nephew John D'Alessandro. Her great nieces Sandy Casasanta, and Chrissy Monteiro.

Mary Ann was pre-deceased by her parents, her infant daughter Angela, her brother John D'Alessandro, her sister Sylvia Casasanta, her brother Dominic D'Alessandro, and her nephew Robert Casasanta and her infant great grandson Michael Beers.

A memorial service and celebration of Mary Ann's life will be announced at a future date.

Rest In Peace Mom.

We know you have found your place in the sun.

Online condolences may be left at www.legacy.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Ewanowski, Elizabeth "Betty"

Elizabeth "Betty" (Sawina) Ewanowski, 93, of Middletown, beloved wife of 68 years to Stanley Ewanowski, died Monday November 22, 2021 at Middlesex Hospital. She was born in Meriden on August 30, 1928 daughter of the late John and Sophie (Babik) Sawina. Betty had been employed with Aetna in Hartford. Betty is survived by her husband Stanley, sons, Joseph Ewanowski of Amarillo, TX, John Ewanowski and his wife Sue of Middletown, her granddaughter, Karen and her nephew Mark Sawina. She was predeceased by her brother, Edward Sawina and her daughter-in-law Gwen. Funeral services will be privately held and burial will be in Calvary Cemetery. Those who wish may send memorial contributions to a charity of the donor's choice. To share memories or express condolences online please visit www.biegafuneralhome.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

OBITUARIES

Dempsey, Alexandra "Sandy"



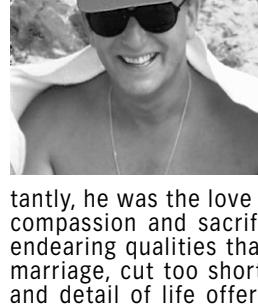
Alexandra "Sandy" (Duff) Dempsey, 84, of Berlin, widow of Paul L. Dempsey, passed away Saturday (November 27, 2021) at Touchpoints of Farmington. Born in Jamaica Plains, MA, she was a former Newton, MA resident, moving to Berlin in 1967. Sandy was an Administrative Assistant for the Town of Berlin and later worked at Cedarcrest Hospital in Newington for the State of CT, retiring in 2004. A member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in New Britain, she was active with the church Altar Guild. Sandy was a steward and union secretary at AFSCME; was a member of the Berlin Senior Center; and was a frequent traveler.

Surviving are two sons, Jonathan "Jon" Dempsey and his wife Amy of Berlin; Jason Dempsey and his wife Chandanee of Rocky Hill; and a son-in-law, William Wallberg of Southington; and six granddaughters, Julia, Natalie and Lindsay Dempsey; Caroline and Emily Wallberg; and Abigail Rosenberger. Besides her husband Paul, she was predeceased by her daughter, Jennifer Wallberg.

Calling hours are Wednesday 4 to 7 PM at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain. A private graveside service and burial will be in Maple Cemetery at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 90 Main Street, New Britain, CT 06051. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at www.carlson-funeralhome.com

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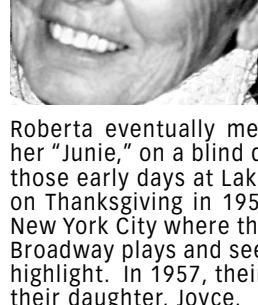
Grote, Sr., Thomas J.



It is with the saddest heart, that I, Debbie Kosak Grote, announce the passing of my incredible husband, Tommy Grote – November 24, 2021. Born on July 25, 1951 and raised in Chester, CT, by loving parents Carmine J. and Julia M. (Slavec) Grote, he was a man that stood by his word. Family and friends were his life! But most importantly, he was the love of my life! His warmth, honesty, compassion and sacrificing for others were his most endearing qualities that drew us together. 39 years of marriage, cut too short, but we enjoyed every minute and detail of life offered with family and friends. His entire career was dedicated to the floral industry, owning Howarth's Flower Shop in Middletown, to becoming a major industry rep over the years. He will be sadly missed by his son, Tom, Jr. (Carrie) and granddaughter, Maya. He also leaves grieving his sisters and brothers-in-law, Patty and Ray Maikowski, Marilyn and Terry Malcarne; nieces and nephews, Aaron, Janelle, Jim, Tessa (Chris), Vic and their children; Auntie Cat and Aunt Marie; also many cousins and countless friends including DP, DPJ, Christian and Kate. He was predeceased by a sister, Julia Ann Grote. Special thanks to South Fire District, Drs. David, Weinreb, and Malon for their compassionate care. We invite you to donate to the American Lung Association for the benefit of COPD research (https://action.lung.org/site/Donation2?df_id=31271&mfc_pref=T&31271.donation=form1) or the CT Humane Society (<https://give.cthumane.org/give/255573/#/donation/checkout>). Per Tommy's request, there are no services. To share memories or express condolences online please visit <http://www.biegafuneralhome.com>. Love you MORE.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Majewski, Roberta M.



Roberta Majewski, 90, passed away peacefully in her home in Chester, CT on November 19. Born to Clara (Duffy) McQuarrie and Daniel McQuarrie in Ashland, Maine, Roberta and her five siblings grew up in Bristol and Plainville, CT where they moved to when Roberta was 9.

Roberta eventually met her husband, John Majewski, her "Junie," on a blind date. They went dancing often in those early days at Lake Compounce and were married on Thanksgiving in 1952, followed by a honeymoon in New York City where they went to television shows and Broadway plays and seeing Eartha Kitt perform was the highlight. In 1957, their son John was born followed by their daughter, Joyce.

Roberta was employed at the University of Connecticut Dental School in the Dean's Office until she and John moved to Newport, RI in 1981. An active member of and activist in the Newport community, Roberta worked at Child & Family Services of Newport County and volunteered on the public housing board. In the 1980s, Roberta became very active in the National Organization for Women and tirelessly fought to protect women's reproductive rights. She spent many Saturday mornings volunteering outside of the women's health center in Providence, RI, escorting women safely into the clinic amidst anti-choice protesters and John would accompany her. At one point, her photo even landed in The Boston Globe after a day spent protesting in support of a woman's right to choose in front of Cardinal Law's residence. In 2004, Roberta and John marched together in Washington DC in support of women's reproductive rights.

Roberta was a voracious reader—she was constantly at the library and books were always arriving in the mail at her house. Culture—books, plays, movies—brought her great joy as an adult. Complementing her hard work and intellect, Roberta was cherished by her friends and family for her warmth, inquisitiveness, and humor. She was the person to call, no matter the crisis.

Roberta and John enjoyed traveling especially when their family could be with them to share their joy. They traveled to countries in the Caribbean, Latin America, North America, and Europe with many returns to Mexico which Roberta loved. They gravitated to locations along the water where Roberta could read on the beach and John could play with their grandchildren.

Roberta's family took center stage for her—there was no limit to her love or belief in them. She is "family famous" for her baking, Easter Egg hunts, passed-down books, and the bits of feminist sensibility that she instilled in each of her grandchildren.

Roberta is survived by her husband, John of Chester, CT; her two children, John of Southbury, CT and Joyce of Cambridge, MA; her daughter-in-law Lisa Majewski and son-in-law Julian Down; and her five grandchildren, Taylor, Caitlin, and Brooke Majewski and Aidan and Sydney Down.

Roberta can be remembered in lieu of flowers with donations to the Alzheimer's Association or Planned Parenthood.

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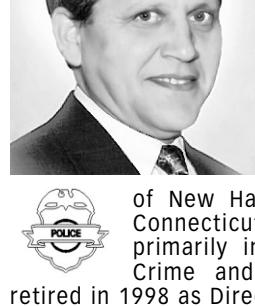
Kiniry, Patricia (Tricia)



Patricia C. Kiniry, 68, of Berlin passed away November 26 at home surrounded by her family and beloved dog, Anna. She was born in New Britain, the daughter of the late Dr. John Kiniry and Patricia (Walsh) Kiniry. Tricia graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas, University of Connecticut, and earned her Masters of Science in Nursing Degree from the University of Pennsylvania. She was a dedicated, caring nurse before retiring from Connecticut Children's Medical Center in 2020. Tricia appreciated beautiful things made evident in the homes she created and her style for entertaining. She loved to paint and draw and shared her talent with family and friends. She loved to travel and explore new places. She was grateful for her many friends that helped her along her journey. Her love for children was always present, especially with her nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews, Fenn, John, Laura, Teddy, Shannon, Tynan, Alicia, Bridget, Jackson, Shawn, Leigh, Meryl, Aedan, Claire, Luke, Erin, Paul, Kevin, John, Kristy, Patsy, Joey, Tristan, Schyler, Greyson, Gwenevere, Avery, Olivia, Brooklyn, Ryder, Bo, Logan, Charleigh, Jaime, Hugo and JJ. Tricia leaves behind her brothers and sisters, Susan and Doug Holt, Sean and Kathy Kiniry, Teddy Kiniry, Betsy and Kevin Cooney, Tony and Gabriella Kiniry, Mark Kiniry, Richard Kiniry, Paul and Tina Kiniry. Tricia's love for nature was ongoing and in her final months she invited her family to stay with her in Nantucket to enjoy the ocean and watch the sunset together. Tricia will be missed by her family and friends but never forgotten. There will be a Funeral Mass December 20th at 10:00 am at St. Paul's Church, 467 Alling Street, Kensington.

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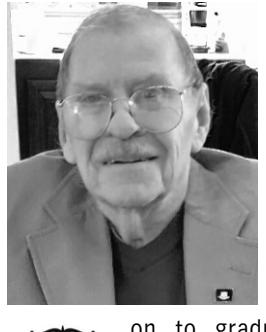
McIntyre, Lt. Charles H.



Charles McIntyre, 72, of Naples, ME, formally long-time resident of Bristol, husband of Sandra (Jessen) McIntyre, passed away peacefully on November 26, 2021 at Salem Hospital in Massachusetts.

Charles was born in Yonkers, NY on January 9, 1949, the son of the late Herbert and Rose (Boyers) McIntyre. He was a graduate of The University of New Haven and later worked for the Connecticut State Police for 28 years primarily in criminal investigation, Major Crime and Organized Crime, where he retired in 1998 as Director of the Statewide Organized Crime Investigative Task Force. He then joined Chubb Insurance as part of the Special Investigative Unit for nearly 17 years. Upon his retirement in 2015, Charles spent much of his time in Naples, ME with his wife and

OBITUARIES

O'Connell, Hon. Edward Y.

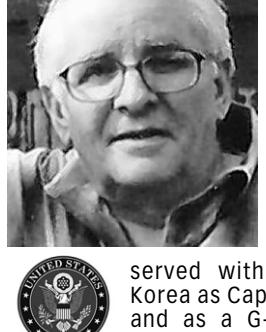
The Honorable Edward Y. O'Connell, 91, husband of the late Gertrude O'Connell, passed away November 19, 2021 at home surrounded by his loving caregivers Annie and Sheldon. He was born in Stafford Springs, son of the late Michael D. and Mary (Young) O'Connell. After graduating high school, Edward enlisted in the US Army as a Medic at age 17. He then went

on to graduate from the University of Connecticut after which he re-enlisted as a Lieutenant Colonel in the US Air Force.

After his re-enlistment with the Air Force, Edward went on to achieve his J.D. from the University of Connecticut Law School. He went on to become a Judge of the Superior Court of Connecticut, then moved on to become the Chief Justice of the Connecticut State Appellate Court. Besides his wife, Edward was predeceased by his sister, Polly. He leaves his caregivers, Annie and Sheldon, who he considered to be like his children. Friends may call from 8:30 to 9:30 am at the Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home, 34 Beaver Road, Wethersfield. A Mass of Christian Burial celebrating Edward's life will take place at 10:00 am in Corpus Christi Church of Christ the King Parish, 601 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT. Burial will follow in Village Cemetery, 1 Marsh Street, Wethersfield. To extend condolences please visit Farleysullivan.com.

**Farley-Sullivan
Funeral Home**

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Obedzinski, Donald H.

Donald "Don" Obedzinski, 82, of Hartford passed away on November 22, 2021. He was born and raised in Hartford, son of Henry and Katherine (Krowka) Obedzinski. Don was a graduate of Bulkeley High School, Class of 1957. He received his BS Degree in 1961 from Norwich University in Vermont. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army during the Cold War and Vietnam Era. He

served with the 1st Cavalry Division in Korea as Captain and Tank Unit Commander, and as a G-2 Intel Analyst (Signals). For many years, Don worked within the Pacific basin, primarily in Honolulu, Hawaii. Don also worked in the insurance industry, both at Aetna and in Hawaii. In 1982 he relocated back to Hartford, became active with the South End Democratic Town Committee and was elected to one term as City Selectman. In 2007, Don retired from the State of Connecticut as Deputy Sheriff/Judicial Marshall for the Connecticut Court System. If you ever met Don, you remember him. He was a military history buff and great storyteller who enjoyed family gatherings, the occasional card game, and watching UConn women's basketball. Don is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, David L. and Gail H. Obedzinski of Wethersfield; and his four nephews and a niece: David J. Obedzinski and his wife, Linda; Paul Obedzinski; Jason Obedzinski and his wife; Aimi Prescott; Ryan Obedzinski and his wife, Carrie; and Jill Foley and her husband, Rider. There will be no calling hours. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Church of the Incarnation, Wethersfield, on Saturday, December 4, 2021 at 10:00 am. Burial with military honors will be in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford. Memorial donations, in lieu of flowers, may be made to the Connecticut Veterans Home and Hospital in Rocky Hill, CT or to other organizations supporting Veterans. The Sheehan Hilborn Breen Funeral Home, West Hartford, is assisting the Obedzinski family with arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.sheehanhilbornbreen.com.

**Sheehan Hilborn Breen
FUNERAL HOME**

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Persaud, Leonard "Lenny"

Leonard "Lenny" Sukhdeo Persaud, 89, of Bloomfield, beloved husband for 69 years of Zulaika Persaud, passed away peacefully on Monday, November 29, 2021, with his family by his side.

Lenny was born in Georgetown, Guyana, son of the late Dwarka and Kowsilla Persaud, and attended local schools. He was employed as a bookkeeper for many years in Georgetown, and then in Hartford. Lenny was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, uncle, and dear friend. He will fondly be remembered as a giving and loving man who was very private and reserved. More than anything, Lenny loved his family, and he leaves a legacy of beautiful memories that will live in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

Besides his wife, Zulaika, he is survived by his children, Sita Persaud of Bloomfield, Leita Jaipershad and her husband Shyama of Bloomfield, Esha Singh and her husband Arjune Jainarayan Singh of Guyana, Premauntha Persaud and his wife Fazia of Queens, NY, Nalini Baksh and her husband Kamrudeen of Windsor, and Yasmin Gordon and her husband Tony of Bloomfield; his grandchildren, Anuj Singh and his wife Alanna, Justin Singh and his wife Tameka, Dirhen Persaud, Anil Persaud, Saif Baksh, Navin Persaud, Jaya Backreedy and her husband Steven, Avital Jaipershad Zayas and her husband Alex Zayas, and Maya Jaipershad; his great-grandchildren, Meher Backreedy, Amaya Zayas, Anura Backreedy, Neya Singh, Giovanna Singh, and Gabriel Singh; his brother, Bobby "Algo" Persaud and his wife Dorothy; and many other relatives and friends.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his brothers, Pertab "Babu" Persaud and Danpaul Persaud; sister, Data Adeen Flood; and great-grandson, Rahil Singh. His service will be private. To leave a condolence for his family, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com

CARMON
Community Funeral Homes

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condolences, and celebrate
life in the obituary section
on courant.com.**

Ramos, Justin

Justin Ramos, 34, of Wethersfield, passed away suddenly on Sunday, November 28, 2021. Born on March 9, 1987 in Hartford, CT, son of Reinaldo Ramos and Amy Rivera. Justin shined light into any room he walked into with his huge smile and big personality. He played many roles in many people's lives but the biggest role he played was father to his twin boys whom he leaves behind, Jaden and Jordan Ramos. Anyone that knew Justin knew him to have one of the most giving and genuine spirits they have ever encountered.

Justin is also survived by his Grandmother Olga Robles, as well three siblings, Anthony, Ryan Ramos and Chastity Ramos along with a host of relatives, "bonus siblings" and friends. Calling hours will be held, TONIGHT, Wednesday, December 1, 2021 from 4 to 8 p.m. at the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, December 2nd at 10 a.m. at Maria Reina De La Paz Parish (St. Lawrence O'Toole Church), 494 New Britain Avenue, Hartford. Everyone is asked to meet directly at church. Burial to follow in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford. The family has asked for masks be worn. For online expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit www.desopofuneralchapel.com.

**D'Esopo
Funeral Chapel**

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Passon III, James "Jimmy" W.

James W. Passon III (Jimmy), 41, of Norwich, CT passed away unexpectedly on November 20, 2021 in Orlando, FL. Jimmy was born on November 14, 1980 and grew up in East Hartford, CT. He loved traveling, meeting new people and catching up with old friends. His infectious smile and positive attitude touched everyone he connected with. Jimmy was a very passionate person and would always let you know what was on his mind, whether you wanted to hear it or not. He loved his family and friends unconditionally and would always make time to reach out with words of encouragement. Jimmy loved all animals but had a special place in his heart for dogs, one particular dog-named Buster.

He is survived by his mother, M. Ruby Passon of East Hartford, CT; two brothers Robert (Terri) of Brasher Falls, NY and John of East Hartford, CT; one sister Romy Lesowick (Mike) of Colchester, CT; one niece who he truly adored Ruby Passon; roommate and adored friend Angela and her two children Jaida and Trent; many cousins; and countless friends. His family will honor his life privately at their convenience.

He was preceded in death by his father James W. Passon, Jr. Donations can be made to: Protectors of Animals, www.poainc.org

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Shea, RSM, Sr. Ellen Mary

Sister Ellen Mary Shea, RSM, (formerly Sister Maria Raymond), died peacefully on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 in the Baggot Street Community, Saint Mary Home, West Hartford, CT. Born in Hartford, CT on February 21, 1941 to the late William B. and Frances (Henson), she entered the Sisters of Mercy on August 30, 1959 following her graduation from high school. Attracted to the Sisters of Mercy by their service to those in need and commitment to empowering people through education, Sister Ellen clearly grasped the opportunity to extend the classroom beyond its walls. To Sister Ellen, the most valuable skill is listening and the most important quality of life is valuing and understanding the human experience, which differs from person to person.

After earning a B.A. in Education from the Diocesan Sisters' College, Madison in 1963, Sister Ellen received an M.A. in Pastoral Ministry from the University of Saint Joseph, West Hartford, (1978).

As an elementary school teacher in CT Catholic schools, Sister Ellen was noted for her ability to identify students suffering loneliness, guilt and grief caused by a change in their family structure through death, divorce or separation. Recognizing the magnitude of social needs among these students, Sister Ellen introduced a formal intervention program - Rainbows - and trained educators to facilitate the sessions. Integrating the needs of single parents with the needs of their children, Sister Ellen served as Coordinator of the Ministry to Separated and Divorced Catholics in the Archdiocese of Hartford.

As a teacher, counselor, confidant, and educational consultant, Sister Ellen has brought hope, acceptance, and self esteem to countless individuals who were suffering in isolation.

Known for her approachable manner, warm smile, pride in her Irish heritage and love of life, Sister Ellen left her footprints on the hearts of those she supported.

Having retired to Saint Mary Home in June, 2019, Sister Ellen enjoyed visits from friends, cheering the UConn Women's Basketball Team to victory, reading, and continuing her prayerful support of those in need.

Predeceased by her parents and her aunt, Sister Eleanor Marie, RSM, Sister Ellen is survived by her sister, Mary Elizabeth Shea; her cousin Alice Egan and Alice's husband Bob; many additional loving cousins; the Sisters of Mercy; and her close friends - Mary Morgan Wolff, Georgeann Vumbaco, RSM, Ellen Flynn, RSM, and Beth Fischer, RSM.

The Sisters of Mercy are grateful to the Saint Mary Home staff for their compassionate care provided to Sister Ellen.

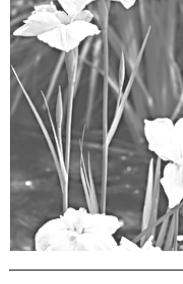
Sister Ellen's Wake and Funeral Mass will be held on Friday, December 3 at Saint Mark the Evangelist Church, 467 South Quaker Lane, West Hartford. The wake will be from 11 a.m. - 12 noon, with a Mass of Christian Burial at 12 noon. Burial will follow Mass in Saint Mary Cemetery, 2021 Albany Ave, West Hartford. Masks should be worn during the service.

You are asked to consider donations in Sister Ellen's memory to the Sisters of Mercy, 25 Prescott Street, 1st floor, West Hartford, CT 06110. Online condolences may be made at www.sheehanhilbornbreen.com

**Sheehan Hilborn Breen
FUNERAL HOME**

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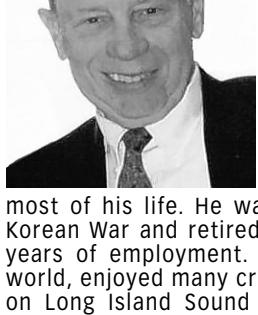
**Swain, Penelope (Waters)**

Penelope (Waters) Swain, 82, of Farmington, died Sunday, November 28, 2021. She was born on December 5, 1938 in New Britain, daughter of the late Ida (Johnson) and Archibald Waters. She graduated from Farmington High School in 1956. Being a long time Unionville resident, she loved working as a hairdresser at Classic Hair Design in Unionville where she had fun interacting with friends and customers. She was a member of the First Church of Christ Congregational, Unionville and a member of the Order of the Eastern Star in Unionville.

She was predeceased by her husband Roger V. Swain. She is survived by her four children and their spouses, Dawn S. and her husband Carl Dzubay of Southbury, Wiley N. and his wife Alison Swain of West Simsbury, Joy L. and her husband Manfred Witecy of Elkhorn, NE and Tyler V. and his wife Judi Swain of Bethany. She also leaves a brother Nelson Waters of Unionville and a sister Paula Waters of Southbury. She leaves 11 grandchildren and one great grandson whom she cherished and dearly loved. The family would like to thank Julie Martin of Burlington for her care and kindness over the past years.

Friends may call at The Ahern Funeral Home, 111 Main Street, Rt.4, Unionville on Thursday (Dec. 2) from 11:00am - 12:00pm followed by Funeral Services in the funeral home at 12:00pm. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery, Farmington. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to First Church of Christ Congregational, 61 Main Street, Unionville, CT 06085. To send online condolences to the family, please visit www.ahernfuneralhome.com.

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Samek, Rudolph H.

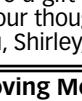
Rudolph H. Samek, 89, of West Hartford, died peacefully on Friday, Nov. 12, 2021. Married in August 1964, he was the beloved husband of Estelle (Maciorowski) Samek for 57 years. Born in Middletown, he was the son of the late Charles Samek and Josephine (Wyborny) Samek. Rudy was raised in Newington and resided in West Hartford for most of his life. He was a U. S. Army veteran of the Korean War and retired from Shaw Walker after many years of employment. Rudy and Estelle traveled the world, enjoyed many cruises together and loved to sail on Long Island Sound in their sailboat. He loved to swim and would swim regularly throughout the years. Along with Estelle and his family, he leaves his dear friends Gary and Maria Martone of West Hartford, and their family. Relatives and friends are invited to attend his funeral service, to be held at his grave in Center Cemetery, Newington, (corner of Cedar Street and Main Street behind the Church of Christ, Congregational), at 11:15 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 3, 2021. Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial, 20 Bonair Ave., Newington, is serving the family. To share a memory, please visit us at www.duksa.net.

DUKSA

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IN MEMORIAM**In Loving Memory Of
MARY L KUCKEL**

3/10/1912 - 12/1/2007



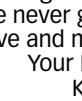
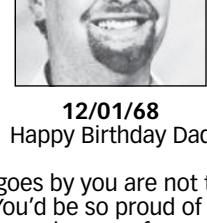
A special smile, a special face, in our hearts, always a special place. Memories are a gift to treasure, ours of you will last forever. Always in our thoughts and hearts.

Loving and missing you, Shirley, Bobby, Dick and Jackie.

**In Loving Memory Of
ROBERT KORNER**

11/29/1940 - 12/1/2015

Goodbyes are not forever. Goodbyes are not the end. They simply mean will miss you, until we meet again. Always thinking of you...Dee, Kristi and John

**In Loving Memory Of
KEVIN MICHAUD**

12/01/68

Happy Birthday Dad

Not a day goes by you are not thought of.

You'd be so proud of us.

You may be gone from my sight,

but you are never gone from my heart.

We love and miss you dearly.

Your Family

Kyle

Danielle

Matt

**In Loving Memory Of
JOSEPHINE M (FICUCELLO) PARKER**

4/29/1921-12/1/1981

It's been 40ys since you left us. There's not a day that goes by that I don't think of you & miss you. You have 6 beautiful great grandchildren that you would have loved. Love You Always, MB



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Lamont seeking ideas for fed funds

With billions in infrastructure money expected, local leaders urged to help outline priorities

By Christopher Keating

Hartford Courant

UNCASVILLE — Gov. Ned Lamont asked mayors and first selectmen Tuesday for ideas on how to spend billions of dollars headed to Connecticut under President Joe Biden's infrastructure plan that will pay for improvements to roads, bridges and

commuter rail lines.

"There are a lot of other pieces of the infrastructure bill that you ought to be thinking about because we need your insights on this," Lamont told the crowd gathered at Mohegan Sun. "Some of it is competitive. Some of it is formula. Let's say broadband, for example. I think we realized in this last year or so that broadband is not a 'nice

to have.' Broadband, high-speed internet access is vital with learning from home. ... Broadband is really important. We'll need your insights in terms of where we should focus on that, where we should prioritize on that."

In a keynote address to more than 700 people at the annual Connecticut Conference of Municipalities convention, Lamont thanked the local leaders who had gathered in a large ballroom for the first time since the pandemic started.

"This is an opportunity for you to be involved and help us make those decisions and those priorities" Lamont said. "If you believe in good government, this is an opportunity to get it right. This is an opportunity to make investments that have been put off for an awful long time. ... Let's not waste this opportunity. For the last 30 years, we were making do with less. This is an opportunity to make some investments."

Connecticut is scheduled to receive \$5.38 billion over the

next five years or approximately \$1 billion per year. This includes \$3.29 billion for major road projects, \$1.3 billion for buses and railroads, \$561 million to strengthen bridges, and \$100 million for extending computer broadband coverage around the state and to low-income families.

The final total that Connecticut will receive is still not determined because the state can compete for even more money.

Turn to Funding, Page 2

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Looking to get your booster?

Where to find them, who should get them and why they matter

By Alex Putterman

Hartford Courant

Experts say COVID-19 booster shots have become more important than ever as cases surge and the state waits for the arrival of the omicron variant.

"Right now, the key is still vaccination and it is still boosters," Dr. Ulysses Wu, an infectious disease specialist at Hartford HealthCare, said Monday. "The only pathway out of this pandemic still remains vaccination, as well as masking and to a certain extent social distancing."

Here is everything to know about COVID-19 booster shots in Connecticut.

Who should get a booster shot? As of mid-November, all adults 18 and older who received a second COVID-19 vaccine dose in mid-May or earlier are eligible for a booster. Additionally, anyone who received a Johnson & Johnson vaccine is eligible for a booster two months after their shot.

Not only are all adults now able to get boosters, but as of this week the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that they do so.

"The recent emergence of the Omicron variant further emphasizes the importance of vaccination, boosters, and prevention efforts needed to protect against COVID-19," CDC director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said in a statement Monday.

People who are unsure for any reason whether they should get a booster are encouraged to discuss with a doctor.

Turn to Vaccine, Page 2



Safe Schools for Alex founder and CEO Max Schachter holds a picture of his son Alex as he testifies before a subcommittee hearing on school security in Washington, D.C., in 2019. Alex was one of 17 people killed in the 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida. JOSE LUIS MAGANA / AP

UConn fraternity inducts Parkland shooting victim

Alpha Epsilon Pi raising money for nonprofit started in Alex Schachter's memory

Associated Press

A fraternity at UConn has posthumously inducted one of the 17 people killed in the 2018 shooting at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida.

His father Max Schachter stood in for his son during a special ceremony hosted by Alpha Epsilon Phi Monday night.

Alex Schachter had planned to go to UConn and play trombone in the marching band. After his death, he was admitted to the school and made an honorary member of the band.

Alex's mother, Debbie Goldberg Schachter, went to UConn; his father attended a different college but was a member of Alpha Epsilon Pi. Alex's grandfather was also

a member of the fraternity.

"Over the course of our 108-year history, this is only the second time we have initiated someone posthumously, so we feel extremely honored as a chapter to be a part of this historical event," said Michael Cotton, president of the fraternity's UConn chapter.

Cotton, a junior from Newtown, said Max Schachter shared some

memories about his son, including that he idolized former UConn basketball great Ray Allen and made a habit of wearing his UConn sweatshirt.

"Max jokingly mentioned that he feared people would think that he doesn't buy Alex new clothes because he would only wear his

Turn to UConn, Page 2

This is a mixture of happiness and sadness at the same time for me. I miss Alex every day and I know he would have had a great time going to UConn, being in their marching band and being in a fraternity.

— Max Schachter, father of Alex Schachter and founder and CEO of Safe Schools for Alex

As bullying returns to the classroom, parents work to find solutions

Ideas shared in new Facebook forum: 'We cannot continue to stand by while our children are hurt'

By Jesse Leavenworth

Hartford Courant

Manchester parents have launched an online forum to discuss school bullying, a chronic and widespread problem and part of an overall increase in student misbehavior in the state and

nation.

The members-only Facebook group is called Stop the Bullying in Manchester CT Public Schools (bit.ly/3rkCAJW). School Superintendent Matt Geary said at the board of education's Nov. 22 meeting that he had received communications about bullying and

harassment and would work on a presentation about school climate and culture for an upcoming board meeting.

One of the messages to the superintendent was from the founder of the new Facebook group, who wrote that bullying has "gotten out of hand, and we cannot continue to stand by while our children are hurt in school daily."

"The community would like to do what we can to help OTHER

than just talking to our children at home," the woman, who in a recent interview asked not to be identified, wrote. "None of the schools or the parents have the ability to change what is happening alone."

Geary noted at the meeting that her email referenced a recent story about a Louisiana high school where a group of fathers started a program called "Dads on Duty" to curb student fights. Bad behavior linked to the coronavi-

rus pandemic has been rampant in some school districts in Connecticut and the nation at the start of this school year. Geary said the presentation will include potential opportunities for parents to get involved in bettering school climate, although not necessarily in a hallway patrol program like "Dads on Duty."

Bullying is far from a local issue.

Turn to Bullying, Page 2

Hartford Courant

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CONNECTICUT

Decline in youth cases accelerated in pandemic

Number of children referred to juvenile court in Connecticut dropped 75% since 2005, data shows

By Zach Murdock

Hartford Courant

The number of children referred to Connecticut's juvenile courts has dropped almost 75% since 2005, new data show, charting a steady decrease in the number of juveniles entering the state's criminal justice system that has been accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic's sprawling impacts over the past 18 months.

Just 4,216 children were referred to juvenile court in the entirely pandemic-impacted 2020-21 state fiscal year, which ended in June, compared to 15,603 children referred to the juvenile court system in the 2005 state fiscal year, the data show.

During that same time new admissions to the state's two juvenile detention centers dropped 87% to just 379 in the fiscal year that ended this summer as the state has increased its efforts to shift more young offenders away from incarceration and into more successful diversionary programs.

Those decreases track with drops in the rate of overall crime across Connecticut over the past decade — including a 37% decrease in the rate of violent crime and a 29% decrease in the rate of property crimes — even as both murders and auto thefts increased this year, sparking a political debate about whether the system is too lenient on repeat juvenile offenders.

The new data come from the

state's annual report on juvenile justice statistics, presented in November for the first time in two years because of the pandemic's interruptions last year, as state experts prepare a new online dashboard to present juvenile justice metrics publicly for the first time next year.

The new dashboard will be similar to tools available to study other states' juvenile court systems and takes some inspiration from the state's online COVID dashboard in the ways it will present town-by-town and regional data with colorful, interactive graphics, officials said.

Even accounting for those increases, the overall rate of violent crime in Connecticut fell 37% from 2010 to 2020 and the rate of property crimes fell 29% over that decade.

Legal experts, lawmakers and advocates hope the dashboard will increase transparency about the inner workings of the complex juvenile justice system, especially after a year of intense scrutiny following several high-profile teen crimes this summer, including the fatal hit-and-run of a New Britain jogger by a teen with a lengthy prior record speeding in a stolen car.

"The project really gets at the heart of what our workgroup is designed for, as it will be an opportunity to share data between the agencies and distribute to the public important information about the juvenile justice system that hasn't

always been readily available," said Maurice Reaves, assistant director of the state's Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division. "It is a project we are very excited to be working on and also conscious of the importance of doing it right."

The new juvenile justice data covering the past two years, including the second half of 2019 and early 2020 before the pandemic impacted Connecticut, show the years-long decline of children entering the system further accelerated through the disruptions COVID-19 wrought on the entire criminal court and support services systems.

The number of juvenile referrals to court increased only around the years in which the Connecticut's "Raise the Age" laws went into effect in 2010 and 2012, adding 16- and 17-year-olds to juvenile jurisdiction instead of adult court, the data show.

The data also show that over the past two years most juveniles whose cases went to juvenile review boards, a process outside of the juvenile court that offers some young offenders a chance to avoid an arrest record by completing diversionary programs, successfully completed those programs — 83% in 2020 and 73% in 2021, according to the data presented to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee in November.

Interestingly, experts noted, the rates of re-arrest and re-conviction for the juveniles who do wind up on probation have remained relatively consistent over the years, despite the declining number of juveniles reaching the probation level of the

system now. That is not because the probation programs are failing but because those fewer children involved are at higher risk of reoffending, officials said — mirroring what state police Commissioner James Rovella and other police leaders across the state have repeated throughout the year about their recent struggles with repeat, harder-to-help young offenders.

"As more diversion programs have diverted lower risk kids out of the probation system, it has resulted in cohorts of young people on probation who are at significantly higher aggregate risk, as measured by the actuarial risk tools employed by the probation department," said Brian Hill, a judicial branch administrator and co-chair of the group that produced the data analysis. "The research indicates, and the same has been found here in Connecticut, that the higher the risk of the child the higher likelihood that child is to either be rearrested or reconvicted. You can see that phenomenon of the shrinking probation population."

Many of the data that go into the annual analysis also will be featured in the upcoming public dashboard, which has been in the works all year, officials said.

The dashboard is inspired in part by the usefulness of the state's online COVID dashboard, which has allowed anyone to quickly access information about the pandemic's impact statewide and in their specific town, plus a litany of helpful links and explanations for people seeking out more information, the working group said.

New Haven Democratic state Reps. Robyn Porter and Toni Walker, who chairs the Juvenile Justice Police and Oversight Committee, both noted the dashboard will need both context for the overall dashboard and some specific data points, such as the disproportionate rate of children of color involved in the system, to make it most useful for the public to examine the system from the outside.

But not every stat will be available in the dashboard, and that's how it should be, said Hector Glynn, COO for The Village for Families & Children that offers programs to help children in need in the Hartford area.

"It's also a racial equity dashboard, so presenting just raw numbers fails to tell the story and that's why it may be a little more complicated ... because rates now become very important," Glynn said. "A numerator or denominator is really how most of the information is going to be presented because that makes a difference in what the system looks like ... but we did want to make sure we told the story of race and equity and the raw numbers don't do that."

The working group developing the dashboard will continue to revise what data will be included, how to share data across agencies and how those numbers will be presented over the course of the winter before finalizing the project to post next year.

Zach Murdock can be reached at zmurdock@courant.com.

HAMDEN

Two high schoolers charged in fight that left teen hospitalized

A 14-year-old student was hospitalized with several stab wounds and a 13-year-old student was taken into custody following a fight outside Hamden High School on Monday afternoon, police said.

Officers responded to a reported stabbing about 2:15 p.m., police said, which occurred near a Hamden city bus stop adjacent to the Hamden High campus.

A 14-year-old ninth grader who had been stabbed in the back approached a school resource officer, who was in front of the school. The student was later transported to Yale New Haven Hospital for further treatment. Police said the student was in stable condition on Tuesday.

According to a police investigation, the 14-year-old was involved in a fight just off campus with another student and stabbed "multiple times in the back" by a fellow student.

The 13-year-old suspect was taken into custody and charged with second-degree assault, police said. The suspect also received treatment for a minor hand laceration. The 14-year-old was charged with third-degree assault for their role in the altercation.

— Seamus McAvoy

NEWINGTON

Italian man arrested after he allegedly traveled to US to meet 15-year-old girl

A man who police say came from Italy to the United States in order to meet a Newington 15-year-old in person following a four-month online relationship was arrested Saturday, Newington police said Monday.

According to police, officers responded Thursday to reports of a suspicious motor vehicle parked in a residential neighborhood in Newington. Police found Francesco Saverio Nolfi, 27, from Grosseto, Italy, with a 15-year-old female companion.

Nolfi and the 15-year-old met online, and the man came to visit her in person, police said. According to police, the man and the 15-year-old exchanged sexually explicit photographs online and later had illegal sexual contact, police said.

Police arrested the man on Saturday and charged him with enticing a minor by computer and illegal sexual contact with a victim under the age of 16.

— Seamus McAvoy

Funding

from Page 1

Lamont urged local leaders to contact the state environmental protection department with ideas on curbing flooding in their towns, which he noted is not just a coastal phenomenon. In addition, federal money is being set aside to replace old lead pipes.

The new federal law also includes \$100 billion in competitive grants that would be awarded around the nation for a variety of projects. Those include items like purchasing

low-emission and no-emission buses, replacing bridges, and improving bus service. In addition, the law calls for \$30 billion in competitive grants for the Northeast railroad corridor.

The law also calls for money to repair crumbling platforms at train stations across Connecticut, along with creating charging stations for electric cars at 30 locations along the interstate highways, as well as city and rural roads.

Christopher Keating can be reached at ckeating@courant.com

UConn

from Page 1

favorite UConn hoodie all the time," Cotton said.

The fraternity is raising money for a nonprofit organization the Schachter family started in Alex's memory, Safe Schools for Alex. The fraternity also started "No Shave for Schachter," in which members are taking donations to grow facial hair.

"This is a mixture of happiness and sadness at the same time for me," Max Schachter said. "I miss Alex every day and I know he would have had a great time going to UConn, being in their marching band and being in a fraternity."

Founded in 1913 at New York University, Alpha Epsilon Pi is an international Jewish frater-

nity dedicated to leadership and service.

"We are proud of our Brothers at UConn AEPi, proud of Brother @maxschachter for his passion and advocacy, proud of our new Brother Alex Schachter for the light he has provided our chapters and communities and, as always, we are #proudtoeapi," the fraternity tweeted Tuesday.

Alex was 14 when he was killed; he would have been a college freshman this year.

Shortly after the shooting, Alex's family endowed a scholarship at UConn in his name. "After this horrible tragedy, we just wanted to try to have something good come of this," Max Schachter said in a statement released by UConn at the time. "We're hoping that it will keep Alex's memory alive for years and years to come."

The members of the fraternity were inspired by Max Schachter's response to the tragedy, Cotton said.

"It is mighty impressive how Max and the Schachter family are able to persist through their hardship and create good in this world," Cotton said. "He has inspired our chapter to continue to give back and spread positivity in our community, as we have learned how impactful we can be working together as a group."

Alex was also inducted as a full member of UConn's marching and pep bands, which honored him by leaving a seat empty in the trombone section and making a pin with his name on it that they wore to events.

Courant Staff Writer Daniela Altamari contributed to this story.

Vaccine

from Page 1

Where are booster shots available? Boosters are available in all the same places one might find a first or second COVID-19 vaccine dose.

In Connecticut, that includes physicians' offices, public clinics and pharmacies, including CVS and Walgreens. People seeking to sign up for a booster shot can do so at ct.gov/covidvaccine or by reaching out to providers directly.

Additionally, temporary vaccine sites continue to pop up throughout the state. Upcoming clinics in the Hartford area include:

■ Wednesday, Dec. 1 from 3-6 p.m. at Conard High School, 110 Beechwood Road, West Hartford

■ Wednesday, Dec. 1 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church, 2051 Main St., Hartford

■ Wednesday, Dec. 1 from 2-5 p.m. at Carmen Arace Intermediate School, 390 Park Ave., Bloomfield

■ Wednesday, Dec. 1 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Hilltop Cafe at Central Connecticut State University, 105 Ella Grasso Blvd., New Britain

■ Thursday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Root Center for Advanced Recovery, 1354 Main St., Hartford

■ Thursday, Dec. 2 from 2-6 p.m. at Hartford Department of Health and Human Services, 131 Coventry St., Hartford

■ Sunday, Dec. 5 from 1-4 p.m. at St. Monica's Episcopal Church, 3575 Main St., Hartford

More clinics statewide can be found at portal.ct.gov/vaccine-portal/DPH-van-clinics.

Why do booster shots matter?

Research has shown immunity from COVID-19 vaccines wanes over time, particularly in older people and those with other health issues. Booster shots restore that immunity, returning a patient to approximately the level of protection they experienced when they were first vaccinated.

Officials say the importance of booster shots was made clear during a recent COVID-19 outbreak at a North Canaan nursing home, in which dozens of vaccinated residents tested positive and eight died.

"It was a highly vaccinated home, but boosters really weren't available yet," Dr. Manisha Juthani, the state's public health commissioner, said. "It's evidence of the fact that immu-

nity does wane over time."

Public officials and health experts have argued that booster shots are even more important now, as Connecticut awaits the arrival of the omicron variant, which is believed to be more transmissible than previous strains. In a statement Sunday, Gov. Ned Lamont said vaccination and booster shots are the best way to prepare for the new variant.

"This news of the omicron variant reminds us about the importance of being vaccinated and getting a booster," Lamont said.

According to state numbers, unvaccinated residents have been about five times as likely as vaccinated residents to test positive for COVID-19 in recent weeks.

Which brand should you get?

The CDC and the Food and Drug Administration say vaccine recipients are allowed to mix and match shots, meaning someone who got, say, a Johnson & Johnson vaccine originally may get a Moderna booster.

Juthani has said that while Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna recipients may want to stick with the same brands for their booster shots, Johnson & Johnson recipients should pursue one of the others.

"With Johnson & Johnson, what's pretty clear is that after two months your immunity starts to wane," she said. "You can get a Johnson & Johnson booster, but certainly your response in terms of immunity is much higher if you get an mRNA booster, whether it be Moderna or Pfizer."

Many vaccine providers, including Walgreens and CVS, list which vaccine is provided at a given location so people seeking booster shots can choose which brand they receive.

How many people in Connecticut have gotten booster shots so far?

As of Tuesday, 595,394 Connecticut residents had received booster shots, according to CDC data, accounting for about a quarter of fully vaccinated adults in the state.

Uptake has been higher among Connecticut's older residents, with 52.8% of those 65 and older having gotten a booster.

Despite ranking as the nation's most vaccinated state by some measures, Connecticut trails several states, including several in New England, in its share of residents having received a booster.

Bullying

from Page 1

Researchers say the respite that many bullied students throughout the nation enjoyed during the pandemic has ended with the return to classrooms.

About one in five students in the nation experiences bullying, according to the latest statistics from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (stopbullying.gov).

In Connecticut, a 2019 survey found that 17.8% of students reported being bullied in schools — 21.3% among females and 14.3% among males. The same survey found 14.3% of students in the state experienced cyberbullying, 17.3% among females and 11.4% among males.

State law defines bullying as "an act that is direct or indirect and severe, persistent or pervasive" that causes physical or emotional harm to an individual; places an individual in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm; or infringes on the rights or opportunities of an individual at school.

Bullying includes written, oral or electronic communication, "a physical act or gesture based on any actual or perceived differentiating characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical appearance, or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability, or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of such characteristics."

"Cyberbullying" means any act of bullying through the use of the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone or other mobile electronic devices or any electronic communications. The state also established a safe school climate framework to address bullying.

Kate Dias, president of the Connecticut Teachers Association, said she did not know if bullying has increased substantially, but teachers across the state have been working with students who need to relearn self-management skills after the disruption of the pandemic.

Dias noted that before social media was widespread, bullied kids could get some relief at home. At least their tormenters were out of their faces until they returned to school.

"Now, kids can't get away from each other," Dias said. "When there's a beef, they can go at each other 24/7 and that adds a whole layer to this that is really emotionally draining."

The best answer for teachers, she said, is to build relationships with students, while acknowledging that teenagers typically will not reveal what they don't want adults to know.

The Psychiatric Times reported this month that remote learning provided some protection for teens against bullying, which is more commonly done in person. The report cited a Boston University study that showed online searches for "school bullying" and "cyberbullying" — searches that historically correspond with higher rates of bullying — dropped by 30%-40% in spring 2020 and maintained that

level through the following winter.

As students gradually returned to school this fall, searches about bullying increased, according to the report.

CONNECTICUT

Prop gun sparks high school lockdown

Two teens arrested after video was posted online showing weapon being handled inside Platt High

By Christine Dempsey

Hartford Courant

A video of a gun being handled inside a Meriden high school that was posted to social media Tuesday morning prompted a lockdown and large police response before authorities realized the weapon was a prop gun, a school official said.

No one was injured; two students were arrested and more

face discipline, said Geoff Kenyon, assistant principal of Platt High School. Classes resumed after the morning incident, he said.

The students who were arrested are boys, ages 15 and 16, Kenyon said. They were charged as juveniles with breach of peace.

According to Kenyon, administrators called police when a video showing a student brandishing a gun with another student inside the school popped up on social

media. The school was immediately placed into lockdown, and students having to stay in place and hide from what they believed was a student in the building with a gun.

Parents rushed to the school, some in tears, according to television news reports.

School officials called Meriden police, and officers surrounded the school at 220 Coe Ave., Kenyon said. Administrators also called federal and state law enforcement agencies, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Connecticut

State Police.

Police worked with school staff to try to find the armed student through internal surveillance cameras and other means. They learned that the two students were in the building but had not shown up for their morning classes, Kenyon said.

Officers began what Kenyon described as a "methodical" search of the building, and police found the two students — described as "suspects" in a news release — in the auditorium with another group of students, he said.

They also found the gun, which

they learned was a prop gun, Kenyon said.

In Hamden, a 17-year-old student was arrested in October after he brought a loaded gun onto the Hamden High School campus.

And on Monday, a 14-year-old Hamden High School student was stabbed in the back and a 13-year-old taken into custody after a fight outside Hamden High School. The wounded student, a freshman, is listed in stable condition, Hamden police said Tuesday.

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Legislators hope to make mental health top priority

With more kids seeking help, it will be 'major focus' in upcoming session

By Adria Watson and Jenna Carlesso

CT Mirror

With the pandemic taking a massive toll on children's mental health, Connecticut lawmakers are already beginning to plan what reforms may best target a longtime crisis.

Over the last several weeks, legislators have hosted forums with behavioral health professionals, state agencies and child experts to discuss what is happening and where improvements need to be made in the state.

Connecticut emergency departments saw an overwhelming number of children seek psychiatric care as the toll of the pandemic fell on the state's youngest residents last year and as students headed back to in-person classes this school year.

Legislative leaders say mental health services will be one of the substantive issues during the 2022 session, which begins in February. Next year's session is only three months, however, and lawmakers will have to move quickly to get important bills through the General Assembly.

"I think you're going to see it be a major focus," said House Speaker Matthew Ritter, D-Hartford, who recently convened a forum on the issue. "It's a problem. It was a problem before COVID, and obviously, things got exacerbated since then."

Hiring more people

Some of the legislative efforts this session may focus on funding — directing more money toward staffing and incentives to work in the mental health industry.

"There are a real lack of people in that space. So that's something we have to think about — how do you incentivize people to move to Connecticut and practice in that space?" said Ritter. "That's probably a combination of loans or one-time payments. It's like recruiting; you have to recruit

people to come to Connecticut to do this."

Lawmakers are also exploring whether to use out-of-state providers. Some providers in the mental health field must be licensed in Connecticut to practice here. Legislators are considering waiving certain licensure requirements to enable providers from Massachusetts, New York or other states to conduct telemedicine appointments with Connecticut residents.

The co-chairs of the Children's Committee, Rep. Liz Linehan, D-Cheshire, and Sen. Saad Anwar, D-South Windsor, said workforce development is also one of the top priorities heading into the 2022 session.

They are considering legislation that would increase the number of training programs for social workers and psychiatrists, looking at intermediate and long-term plans to ensure psychiatrists are paid fairly and considering how to improve reimbursement rates.

Linehan wants to build on a bill introduced in 2021 that would provide tax incentives to psychiatrists to buy a house in Connecticut by including doctors and nurse practitioners who "have prescribing abilities in the mental health field all around the country."

The program's incentives would include a rebate on the income taxes they pay while working in Connecticut and a grant from the state for a down payment to buy a home if they stay in the state for 10 years after graduating medical school.

Linehan and Anwar have also had conversations about other legislation that could enhance mental health care coordination at pediatrician offices.

"So another thing that I really think is going to be hugely important and that we can scale up very

quickly ... is to beef up our access mental health program," she added.

Access Mental Health is a referral program pediatricians can use if they are presented with a child showing mental health symptoms that they do not feel they have the specialty to handle. The pediatrician can then call Access Mental Health to speak to a psychiatrist and get a referral for that child.

Linehan's top priority is to strengthen Access Mental Health by budgeting for an "immediate infusion of funds" to help double the number of psychiatrists on call for the program.

"The family can receive three telehealth visits with that psychiatrist if they desire and be covered by insurance and, if not, at least for the time being until we're out of this pandemic, hopefully the state can cover those three telehealth visits for each family," Linehan said.

Working with schools

For the 2022 session, legislators are also exploring funneling more resources to schools.

"It's not just [health care] facilities. Everyone thinks we just need to add beds. But as you peel back the layers, it's much more complicated than that," Ritter said. "It's the workforce, and it's also trying to keep people from those beds. It's so much more expensive. And so that might be hiring people and subsidizing school districts to have more counselors and providers on hand, so situations don't escalate."

Resources for children in schools and the community is a key area of focus. While some children will need institutionalized care, others are trying to access resources at home with success.

"There are going to be kids who need beds and who need [institutional] treatment. But a lot of these



State Rep. Liz Linehan, D-Cheshire, and House Majority Leader Matt Ritter, D-Hartford, say children's mental health will be a top priority this legislative session. COURANT FILE PHOTO

cases can be handled without that step," Ritter said. "Take a family where both parents have the resources — they can watch the kid around the clock. Sometimes they're being told it's going to be weeks until they can see a counselor. And that's when it escalates into the emergency room."

"Our emergency room has become the de facto, in some cases, mental health counseling for people. And we need to find a way to say to that parent, 'We're not going to have a two-week waiting list [for a counselor].'" But that's not going to be easy to fix."

With Connecticut having funding linked to the schools based on trauma, the state can strengthen its ability to manage some of these challenges, Anwar said, but that coordination between the schools and mobile crisis is going to be critical in making that happen.

He said there is an urgent need for a \$4.5 million boost to mobile crisis.

Currently, phone services run 24 hours a day, seven days a week, but there is no crisis intervention mobile service available on weekends or at night.

"So we need to actually have that available, because if we don't have that, those same children will go to the emergency room,

whereas they're not going to necessarily get the help in a timely fashion that they're hoping to," Anwar said. "So if we do it ... with a mobile crisis intervention that we are looking at, that will help us out."

Linehan also plans to craft legislation focused on the children who may have missed their opportunity for entry-level behavioral health care or "those mid-level kids who are maybe in need of medication, who may be in need of an intensive outpatient program or a partial hospitalization program," she said.

Linehan and Anwar said many of their colleagues are on board and want solutions that are swift but will address the problems long-term.

"If we do not have a comprehensive strategy, we will be back here having the same conversation again. So I think no more Band-Aids," Anwar said. "Let's fix this and take care of this. Because investment efforts, coordination, is going to save lives, and they're going to save the lives of our children, and the lives of our children are worth it for us to put all hands in and do it together in a manner that the experts have asked us to do, in a manner that really shows that it works."

Gunpoint carjackings under investigation in Cromwell, Middletown

By Christine Dempsey

Hartford Courant

Police in Cromwell and Middletown are investigating separate gunpoint carjackings, one of which has been linked to two other robberies in greater Hartford.

No one was injured in the holdups, which happened on different nights in the neighboring towns, police said.

"We're working together to see if there are any connections between the cases," Cromwell Capt. Fred Sifodaskalakis said Tuesday.

The most recent carjacking happened outside the Cumberland Farms convenience store, 38 Berlin Road, about 9:20 p.m. Monday, Cromwell police said. The victim told officers an SUV pulled up behind his car outside the store, and a person wearing a hoodie and a facial mask got out and approached.

The robber pointed a gun at him and stole the man's Audi, police said. Police found the Audi in East Hartford, but are looking for the SUV, Sifodaskalakis said. It was described as a gray Range Rover.

The earlier carjacking happened outside an apartment complex on Town Colony Drive in Middletown about 11:30 p.m. Sunday, city police said.

A man called 911 to report that he and his girlfriend were unloading belongings from his Honda CRV when another car, a Dodge Char-

ger, pulled up. Two occupants got out and approached the man, one pointing a handgun at him. The robber instructed him to empty his pockets and leave all of his stuff in the car, and he complied. Both thieves got into the Honda and took off, followed by a third man in the Charger, police said.

Police broadcast information about the two cars and learned that the Charger had been stolen from its owner in Rocky Hill and apparently was involved in an armed robbery in Southington. Investigators later learned that it also was involved in a robbery in Plainville after the Middletown carjacking, Middletown Lt. Brian Hubbs said.

The victim's two cellphones were stolen along with the car, and the phones' locator services signaled they were in New Britain. New Britain police found the Charger — unoccupied — but not the Honda CRV, Hubbs said. Police believe the robbers ditched the phones to avoid detection.

Anyone with information about the stolen red 2015 Honda CRV, license plate EPE7242, is asked to call Middletown police at 860-638-4000.

Anyone with information about the Cromwell carjacking or the gray SUV involved in it is asked to call Cromwell police at 860-635-2256.

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Hartford seeks best path forward to close Brainard Airport, MIRA plant

By Rebecca Lurye

Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — The Hartford City Council is stepping up its efforts to bring about the redevelopment of the industrial South Meadows, a far-off prospect that would require the closure of Hartford-Brainard Airport and a neighboring trash plant.

The body voted in August to urge the closure of the century-old airfield, and it passed a resolution in September calling for a complete shutdown of the regional trash facility next door, which is slated to stop burning trash this summer but could continue operating as a transfer station.

While there are no formal plans to shut either operation down, the council is looking to map a path forward. On Thursday, the planning, economic development and housing committee will discuss forming a task force on the subject to recommend the most efficient process for closing the airport and trash center.

The South Meadows Area Redevelopment Task Force, proposed by councilman James Sanchez Jr., would include residents of Hartford and neighboring towns.

The group would spend 90 days developing recommendations for reclaiming 200 acres of land from Brainard, which is operated by the quasi-public

"I understand the economics that an airport could bring to the city, but the opportunity has come and gone four-fold."

— Hartford City Councilman James Sanchez Jr.

Connecticut Airport Authority, and 80 acres from the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority facility.

Sanchez wants the task force to educate the council on the process of decommissioning an airport and to recommend a vision for the potential redevelopment.

He also wants to pressure MIRA to present an exit plan for its Maxim Road facility, including the process for environmental cleanup.

Political pressure has grown in recent years to redevelop the prime, riverfront properties into housing, entertainment, retail and commercial space and a marina.

"You're looking at the possibility of creating an entirely new neighborhood," Sanchez said.

Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin and state Sen. John W. Fonfara, D-Hartford, have been some of the most outspoken advocates of closing the airfield and MIRA

plant.

Despite a 30% decline in take-

offs and landings at Brainard over the past decade, the CAA says it's not in a position to close the airport; executive director Kevin Dillon has said it would likely cost millions of dollars to repay federal grants and conduct a study to determine whether Brainard has outlived its usefulness and the likelihood of claims from tenants at the airport.

Instead, the CAA — which is also largely exempt from local property taxes — wants to attract new businesses to the airfield, though Dillon says that effort is hampered by the city's campaign to shut Brainard down.

Sanchez says he isn't swayed by the CAA's goal of reviving the airfield with new tenants.

"I understand the economics that an airport could bring to the city, but the opportunity has come and gone four-fold," the councilman said.

Meanwhile, MIRA submitted an application to the state in September to change its operation at the trash-to-energy plant in Hartford. The agency is requesting to use the South Meadows facility as a temporary holding station for the trash it collects from participating cities and towns.

MIRA proposes shipping up to 6,000 tons of garbage a week from the South Meadows to out-of-state landfills.

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LIVING

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PAOLA SALIBY/
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Question of marriage

The holiday season can sometimes lead to uncomfortable quizzing from meddlesome friends and family members

By Danielle Campoamor

The New York Times

There are a few things I know will probably happen during holiday family gatherings. My 7-year-old son will show an embarrassingly small amount of gratitude for any gift that isn't a toy; my 3-year-old son will hurt himself jumping off furniture; and someone from my extended family will ask me when the boys' father and my partner of eight years plans on proposing. This will force me to say the same thing I say every year: not anytime soon.

We're hardly alone in such thinking. Studies have shown that many young couples prefer to cohabit rather than marry; and about a quarter of parents living with a child are unwed.

Societal views on marriage have also shifted, with the vast majority of Americans now believing it's acceptable for a couple to live together sans wedding plans.

Of course, not everyone has accepted nontraditional relationship paths, especially in more-conservative circles.

"When a couple chooses not to marry and the family decides that they have a role in that decision, that can create a lot of family gossip and what looks like an alliance — one side versus another," said Katherine Hertlein, a relationship therapist and professor in the couple- and family-therapy program at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Medicine. This can sow division between a couple, she said.

If you're planning on attending a holiday event this season, and are expecting to have friends, family members or

even nosy co-workers pestle you about setting a wedding date, here's how you can respond in a healthy, respectful way.

Decide how much information you're going to share and who is going to share it.

Hertlein believes that people asking about a possible wedding may be looking more to validate their own personal values. Couples, she said, need to communicate their shared principles and decide in advance what they wish to divulge with others.

It's best that the person related to the inquiring family member be the one to take the lead, while the other person plays a supportive role. This will help to minimize any reasons, real or perceived, for a family member to blame a partner.

"These conversations can involve a great deal of tension," Hertlein said, "and the last thing I want is for someone who is not related to the family directly to bear the brunt of any negativity and the sole responsibility of the decision making."

Melanie Cote, 43, a child care provider living in Vancouver, Canada, met her partner, Jamie, 45, when she was 35. The two have a 4-year-old daughter together, but have no plans to marry. It is a decision her family doesn't entirely support, especially her mother. Before attending family functions, the couple create what Cote refers to as a "game plan" to handle the marriage question.

"We just make sure we know what we're going to say: that we're committed, we have a kid and we've been together for eight years," she said. "We always do this respectfully, and we don't

challenge people's thought process or their values or even how they grew up."

Don't go at it alone.

Some family members may attempt to divide and conquer, cornering one individual when they are alone. Hertlein suggests you hold off on any discussion until your partner returns.

"You can say, 'We've had some really good talks about marriage. If this is a conversation you want to have with us, let me just go get my partner,'" she said. "Make sure that you reflect that boundary you have as a couple."

Maria Afentakis, 41, an author living in London, has been with her boyfriend, Timothy, 43, an accountant also living in London, for five years. She said her aunt usually waits until her boyfriend of five years leaves before she pesters her with the marriage question, despite Afentakis consistently telling her family the pair have no plans to get married.

"If my partner is gone somewhere, she'll corner me and ask what's going on with us," she said. When this happens, Afentakis will often stall the conversation until her partner returns. "Thankfully, he's supportive and has great communication skills, so he knows how to navigate the discussion and move onto a different question."

Avoid focusing on a timeline.

If you are considering marriage sometime down the road, discussing any future dates with prodding family members should mostly be avoided.

"The 'right time' is more of an abstract concept, and it's more difficult for families to understand," Hertlein said. "The family will focus on ways they can help

you accelerate the timeline, making it more difficult for the couple to resist their meddling."

So, instead of assuaging marriage-minded family members with a possible timeline, simply share that marriage is an ongoing discussion in your relationship.

Irina Firstein, a therapist practicing in the New York City borough of Manhattan, said couples can tell people that they're figuring it out on their own, and would appreciate it if no one asked them questions because it just "puts the pressure on us" and doesn't help them reach an understanding any faster.

"You can also add that you appreciate their concern and understand their anxiety, but their questions are causing problems for you as a couple," she said. "Just say that when you know a wedding date, they'll be the first to know."

Embrace the uncomfortable, together.

Usually, family members with marriage on the brain will let the question go — either because you set a date or perhaps they were able to see how you value your relationship in other ways outside of marriage. In the meantime, know that these conversations can actually bring you and your partner closer together.

"If the two of you feel like you're supporting each other, you're articulating the same message, you're staying strong as a couple, and you're setting boundaries, you're going to be better off and that's going to be a bonding experience," Hertlein said. "Emotionally intense periods can enhance relationships."

"If the two of you feel like you're supporting each other, you're articulating the same message, you're staying strong as a couple, and you're setting boundaries, you're going to be better off and that's going to be a bonding experience. Emotionally intense periods can enhance relationships."

— Katherine Hertlein, a relationship therapist and professor in the couple- and family-therapy program at University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Medicine

EX-ETIQUETTE

Put the kids first, go to co-parenting counseling

By Jann Blackstone

Tribune News Service

Q. My ex and I have been split up for two years. He had an affair and left. He's living with her and seems happy, but that's not the real issue. We have four children, all 18 and older. I know we must co-parent, but his take on things that have happened concerning the kids is so different than mine, it's obvious he's

lying. When I confront him about the lies, he acts like I'm crazy. He undermines my parenting, sets me up for failure and each time I try to defend myself, it doesn't matter. The kids are taking his side, and he's the one who cheated! I don't know what to do.

A. It is very difficult to assess and then offer suggestions when I am only hearing from one side, but it seems what you are

saying is that it wouldn't matter, anyway. He would lie about what happened. So I will offer my take on the big picture.

I have no idea who is right and who is wrong. I have no idea who is lying and who is not, nor would any co-parenting professional, even if you both sat in our office and continued the narrative. But the truth is, it doesn't matter. When children start taking sides, it is out of desperation.

Their parents have lost sight of what is important — the children. They are locked in a war of who is right and who is wrong.

Your ex could be setting you up, but he could also honestly have a completely different perspective to whatever "happened concerning the kids" than you do. The key word: kids. It's about them. When you and dad put aside trying to prove who is right and who is wrong, your children

will not be forced to choose between you. Neither of you will have to defend yourself because you will both be on the same side — for your children.

When you are in this

position, it is difficult to know exactly how to put the kids first. Go to co-parenting counseling with a professional who refuses to be your referee. You need a coach.



DREAMSTIME

CELEBRITIES

Gotham Awards fete Gyllenhaal's film

From news services

Maggie Gyllenhaal's Elena Ferrante adaptation "The Lost Daughter" won four Gotham Awards, including best feature film, at the 31st Gotham Awards, the annual New York independent film celebration that serves as a kickoff to Oscar season.

Gyllenhaal won breakthrough director and best screenplay for her directorial debut, and star Olivia Colman shared the award for outstanding lead performance with Frankie Faison, "The Killing of Kenneth Chamberlain," a drama based on the 2011 police shooting in White Plains, New York.

For the first time, the Gothams were presented without gendered acting categories. Other borders seemed to disintegrate at the Gothams, once a more narrow celebration of independent film. Among the series winners was Netflix's pop-culture sensation "Squid Game."

"CODA," the coming-of-age drama about a hearing daughter in a deaf family, won several awards. Troy Kotsur, the veteran deaf actor who plays the film's fisherman father, won outstanding supporting performance. Emilia Jones, who stars as the daughter, won breakthrough performer.

Nominees and winners (except for best film) are chosen by juries. In a few categories, they elected multiple winners.

Other winners included Ryusuke Hamaguchi's intimate epic "Drive My Car" for best international film, and Jonas Poher Rasmussen's "Flee," an animated film about an Afghanistan migrant's life, for best documentary.

Rodrigo, H.E.R., Weeknd win Apple Music Awards: Olivia Rodrigo, H.E.R. and The Weeknd all won honors at a revamped



Maggie Gyllenhaal with the best screenplay award at the Gotham Awards on Monday. **EVAN AGOSTINI/INVISION**

Apple Music Awards, which has grown larger to encompass global music patterns. Rodrigo was named breakthrough artist of the year, her "Sour" was named best album of the year, and her "drivers license" was song of the year. The streaming service crowned H.E.R. as songwriter of the year and The Weeknd was named global artist of the year, a step up from the category last year which was mere artist of the year.

Actor Dahl dies: Arlene Dahl, 96, the actor whose charm and striking red hair shone in such Technicolor movies of the 1950s as "Journey to the Center of the Earth" and "Three Little Words," has died. Dahl's son, actor Lorenzo Lamas, said in social media posts that she died Monday. No cause of death was given.

When her movie career ended, Dahl remained prominent in TV, including a three-year stint in the soap opera "One Life to Live" in the 1980s. Dahl

also was active in the lifestyle business, with a syndicated column on beauty tips, a perfume, and lingerie and exercise outfits she designed herself.

Lohan announces engagement: Actor Lindsay Lohan has told her followers on Instagram that she's engaged. The "Mean Girls" star, 35, announced her engagement to boyfriend Bader Shammas and showed off a traditional oval diamond ring with a photo of the couple looking happy, locked in an embrace. "My love. My life. My family. My future," the post read.

Dec. 1 birthdays: Singer Dianne Lennox is 82. Drummer John Densmore is 77. Singer Bette Midler is 76. Actor Treat Williams is 70. Actor Charlene Tilton is 63. Comedian Sarah Silverman is 51. Actor David Hornsby is 46. Actor Riz Ahmed is 39. Singer Janelle Monae is 36. Actor Zoe Kravitz is 33. Singer Nico Sereba is 31.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Gossip about partner shakes sibling to core

Dear Amy: My partner, "Chas," and I have been together for 30 years.

My sister "Shelly" introduced us. Shelly and Chas are very old friends.

All these years, we have shared various family gatherings and holidays. We get along well. Recently, Shelly invited us to a family dinner. Chas had just had surgery and was not able to attend. He sent his greetings and regrets, and I went by myself.

Two days later, our brother sent an email to Shelly and me about some other miscellaneous stuff. Clumsily, he had created his email message on top of an exchange he and Shelly had the day after the recent dinner. Shelly had enthused about what a great time we all had, "mostly because Chas wasn't here."

I was (and am) stunned. I sent a terse reply to both, saying, "I guess I wasn't aware of how unwelcome Chas is at these gatherings." Shelly texted me: "I know that was super unkind, and I hope you'll forgive me."

I have not responded. I have not breathed a word of this to Chas, who would be blindsided and deeply hurt. Shelly texted again: "(Brother) gets me going and words just come out. I miss you."

I don't even know if I want to fix this. I have two siblings who share snide remarks about my partner behind my back!

Carrying this on my own is painful. I need a lot of time and space to get over this and am not confident I have the bandwidth to deal with it.

Any thoughts?

— *Blindsided*

Dear Blindsided: You are justified in feeling wounded, and you did the right thing to call them out.

My thoughts are: Of course, siblings complain and gossip when they don't think they'll be caught!

I assume that you and "Shelly" might have occasionally sniped about your brother, spouses or in-laws over the years. There are probably times when you are relieved when somebody's spouse has to stay home.

Your sister has known "Chas" longer than you have. She may feel comfortable grousing about him because he is a de facto family member.

She issued a quick and sincere apology. What she hasn't done is to explain what was behind her statement, therefore owning her point of view. Nor have you asked her to. Once you feel more collected, you should sincerely and accurately express how you feel, and ask Shelly to explain herself.

Dear Amy: Our daughter died from cancer.

Initially, there were quite a few, "I had that kind of cancer, she'll be fine" supporters. We/ she heard all the other well-meaning (but not so helpful) comments.

As the cancer

progressed, fewer people had anything to say, until one day our daughter noted that none of her friends were visiting or even calling anymore.

She gracefully accepted that they probably just didn't know what to say or do and were uncomfortable when visiting, simply because of that.

Except for a very few.

They came anyway.

They sat with her and often said nothing. Sometimes they chatted. Sometimes they shared a meal or took a nap. Sometimes they just dropped by to say "Hi" and share a quick hug. They provided a presence that said more than words could possibly convey.

That presence lifted our daughter's spirit more than anything else, especially toward the end.

Whether it's a terminal illness, the loss of a loved one, or any other unfortunate major life event, people don't need to know the "right" things to say.

Just showing up, and thereby reassuring the person suffering that they are still loved and are a part of life, a part of the world going on around them, is a greater gift.

— *A Grateful Parent*

Dear Parent: Thank you for sharing this heartbreak experience. You've offered a very deep and important lesson: It's OK not to know what to say. But life really is about showing up.

Dear Amy: Thank you so much for devoting your entire column on Veterans Day to Vietnam veterans and their families. Every single letter brought tears to my eyes.

— *Grateful*

Dear Grateful: So very many veterans contacted me, providing their very moving and valuable testimony. I'm extremely grateful to them all.

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*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19):

Shine a light on your subconscious. This phase might have seen you doing a lot of work on your mental health, and now it's time to put that effort to good use. Prepare to shed your old layers. It's time to let it shine!

Taurus (April 20-May 20):

You've probably weeded out a lot of old connections that were no longer benefiting you or removed yourself from friendships that impeded growth. That pruning of your social life may have been rough, but now it's time to let it bloom again!

Gemini (May 21-June 20):

Working toward your goals in your career sector could have been difficult earlier this year. Fortunately, extraordinary opportunities wait for you on the horizon. Start envisioning where you want to wind up down the line, and Neptune can lead you there with divine timing and a little bit of magic.

Cancer (June 21-July 22):

You may have felt like an outsider lately, unsure of your place in the great wide world. Perhaps it seemed like life held less magical possibility than usual. Thankfully, that less positive energy can finally recede today. Trust that the world is waiting with open arms — it's time to go exploring!

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Dec. 1, 1941, Japan's Emperor Hirohito approved waging war against the United States.

In 1942, during World War II, nationwide gasoline rationing went into effect.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22):

Trying to get closer to those you care about could have been all but impossible for the last few months, and that can be blamed on irrationality. Strengthen the relationship between you and someone special. The more you speak from the heart, the more fantastic life can become.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):

Getting a proper read on the important people in your life has likely been quite frustrating for you. Partners have come and gone without explanation. Things that looked good have turned out to be huge mistakes. The good news is that this phase is over.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):

The best intentions don't always have the best results. Despite any resolutions you might have made at the beginning of the year, it's probably been pretty difficult to maintain a healthy and organized lifestyle while fanciful. Happily, getting your act together should become much easier today.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):

Anything stifling your self-expression should finally dissolve into the mist today. Fantasies that seemed so real may be nothing more than illusions. But now the skies can clear up. This is a beautiful time to wear your heart on your sleeve! You might be impressed with the outcome.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):

Feeling at home may not have been easy lately. A family member or roommate might have gotten on your case. Perhaps you were irritatingly kept awake from dusk to dawn. That can all change today. Any petty problems under your roof could start resolving themselves!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):

Getting your point across could have been nearly impossible the last five months. Your message can finally come through loud and clear today. Almost immediately you may notice that your peers will likely be more willing to listen.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):

Managing your finances has likely been pretty confusing for the last five months. Fortunately, today brings grace and possibly even some material manifestation. Start thinking outside of the box when it comes to your money — ingenuity and your fresh ideas can truly thrive at this time.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):

You've been on a slow and steady transformative journey. This journey might have gotten turned around the last five months. The good news is that today you wake up and ascend to become the best version of yourself. Pisces, this change could impact you. It's time to level up your life!

In 1955, Rosa Parks was arrested after refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus; the incident sparked a yearlong boycott of the buses.

In 1965, an airlift of refugees from Cuba to the United States began.

In 1969, the U.S. government held its first draft lottery since World War II.

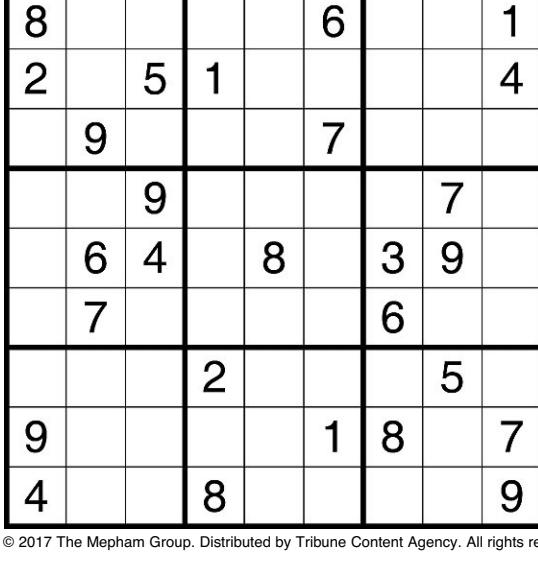
BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at PlayJumble.com



Scan QR code to play online.

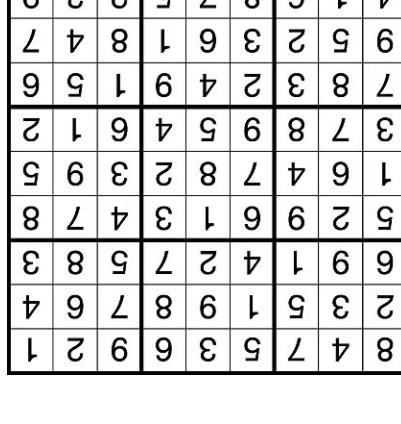
SUDOKU



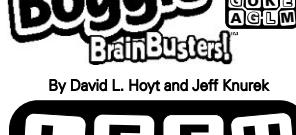
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Level: **1 2 3 4**

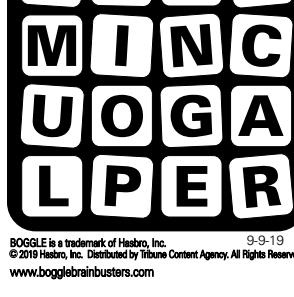
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.



BOGGLE



By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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www.bogglebrainbusters.com

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters, up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words from left to right. You can use a letter in a box more than once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

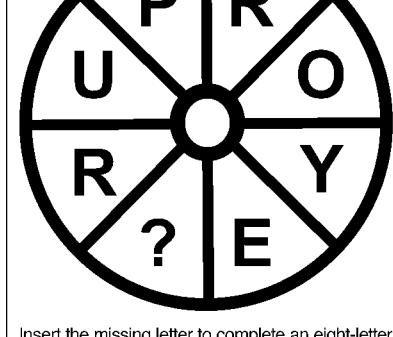
BOGGLE POINT SCALE YOUR BOGGLE RATING
3 letters = 1 point 151+ = Champ
4 letters = 2 points 101-150 = Expert
5 letters = 3 points 61-100 = Pro
6 letters = 4 points 31-60 = Gamer
7 letters = 5 points 21-30 = Rookie
8 letters = 10 points 11-20 = Amateur
9+ letters = 15 points 0-10 = Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus
We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST SIX FRUITS in the grid of letters.

FIG LIME PLUM PEAR PEACH LEMON

WordWheel

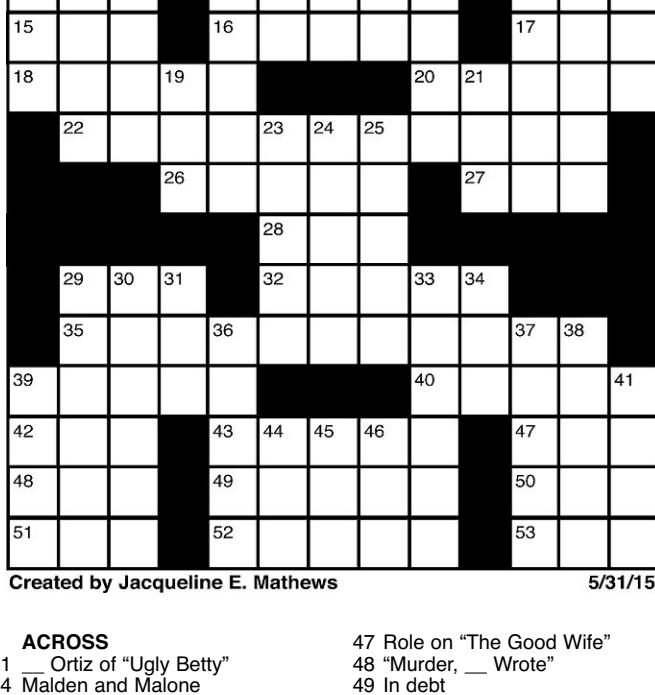


Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

PURVEYOR
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TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

5/31/15

ACROSS

- 1 Ortiz of "Ugly Betty"
- 4 Malden and Malone
- 9 "___ You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?"
- 12 "It Be"; Beatles hit
- 13 Actress ___ Symone
- 14 "World ___ Z"; Brad Pitt movie
- 15 "Please Don't ___ the Daisies"
- 16 Actor Davis
- 17 ...FDR, ___; DDE, JFK, LBJ...
- 18 Role on "Cheers"
- 20 Waitress at Mel's Diner
- 22 Actor on "NCIS: New Orleans"
- 26 Blaze residue
- 27 Become firm
- 28 Monogram for the author of "Kidnapped"
- 29 "Much ___ About Nothing"
- 32 Fitzgerald and her namesakes
- 35 "How to ___ Murder"
- 39 Mickey Mouse's only attire, besides his shoes
- 40 Actor Flynn
- 42 Arctic Cat or FourTrax, for short
- 43 "I ___ saw, I conquered"



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5/31/15

47 Role on "The Good Wife"

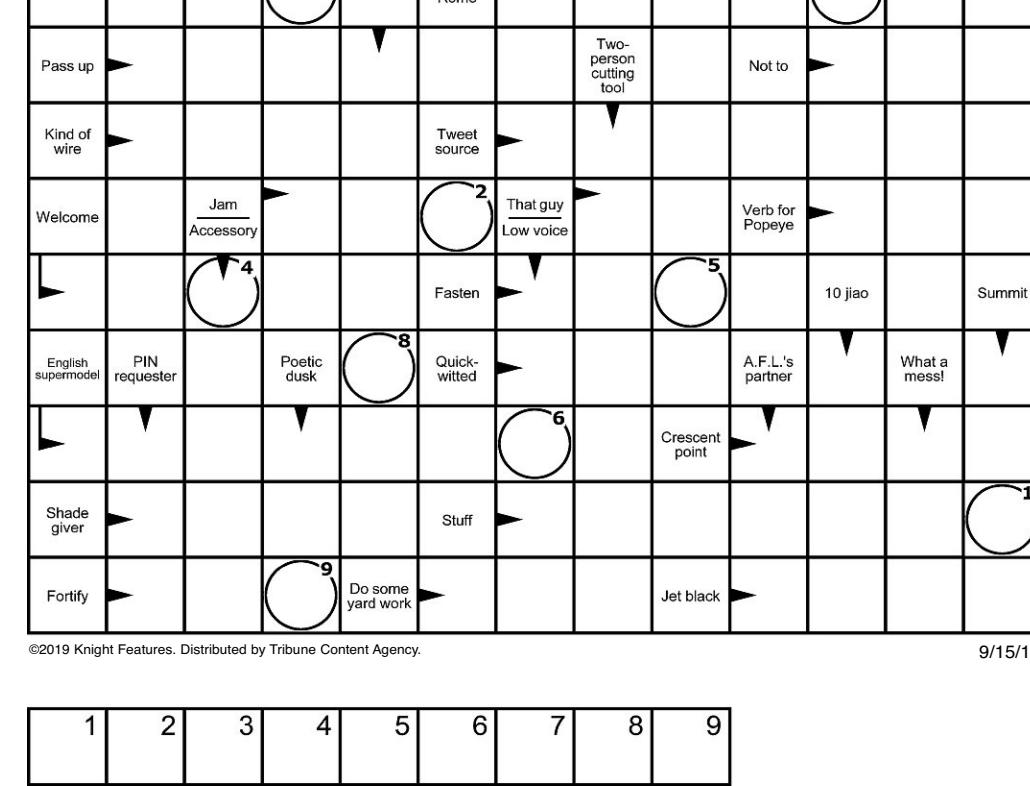
- 48 "Murder, ___ Wrote"
- 49 In debt
- 50 The Matterhorn or Mont Blanc
- 51 Rower's need

DOWN

- 1 Sir Guinness
- 2 Actress Patricia and her kin
- 3 Room under the roof
- 4 Steve of "60 Minutes" and his family
- 5 Two-year degrees: abbr.
- 6 Campground vehicles, for short
- 7 Luau garland
- 8 Underhanded person; weasel
- 9 Once in ___; occasionally
- 10 Spanky or Alfalfa, for example
- 11 Russian-born French artist and designer
- 19 Actor Barrett
- 21 Drag along behind; tow
- 23 Tossed
- 24 Flamboyant feminist ___ Abzug
- 25 ___ as a fox; crafty
- 29 Mystery writer ___ Christie
- 30 Bob or John
- 31 Baseball's Mel
- 33 "Anchors ___"; Frank Sinatra film
- 34 "To ___ with Love"; movie for Sidney Poitier
- 36 Famous English racecourse
- 37 Actor Williams
- 38 Main character on "What I Like About You"
- 39 "El ___"; John Payne western movie
- 41 Hot ___ Houlihan; role for Loretta Swit
- 44 Sense of wonderment
- 45 Sixty secs.
- 46 Suffix for depend or exist

ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.

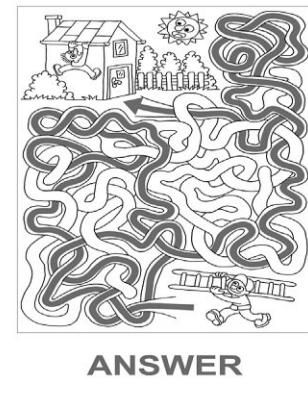
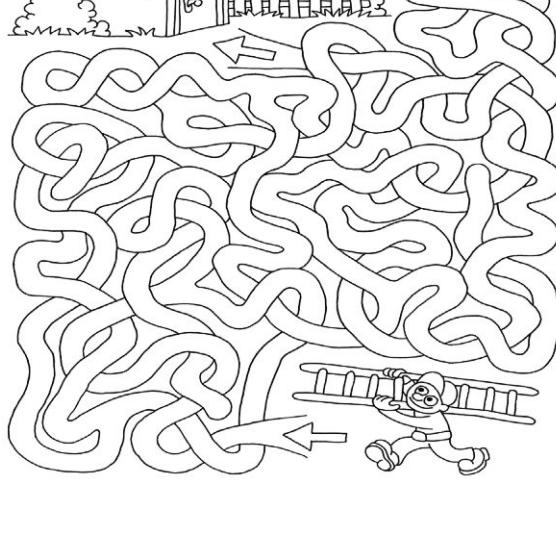


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9/15/19

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



ANSWER

WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: zzzzzzz

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off as you find them.



AZALEA	GAUZE	OZONE	WIZARD
AZURE	GAZE	PIZZA	WOODY
BIZARRE	GIZZARD	PLAZA	ZEAL
CHINTZ	HAZARD	PRETZEL	ZEBRA
CITIZEN	HAZEL	PRIZE	ZENITH
DAZE	HAZY	QUARTZ	ZERO
DAZZLE	JAZZ	RAZOR	ZEST
DIZZY	LAZY	SEIZE	ZINC
DRIZZLE	LOZENGE	SLEAZY	ZIRCON
ECZEMA	MAZE	TOPAZ	ZODIAC
FIZZ	NOZZLE	UNZIP	ZOOLOGY
FUZZ	OOZE	WALTZ	ZOOM

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JUMBLE

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RUPEN

GREEM

KINSYT

MERTAT

THAT SCRABBLED WORD GAME

by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here:

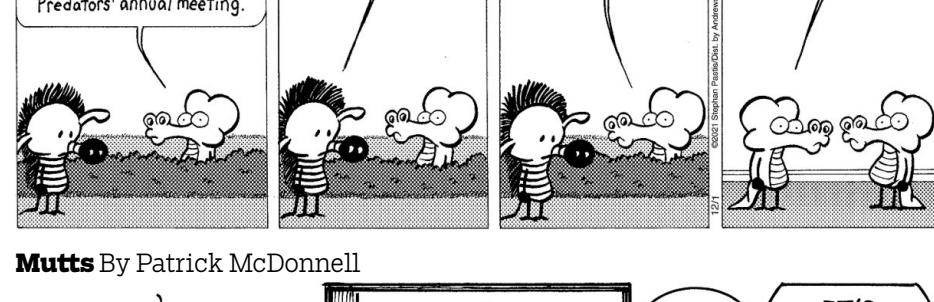
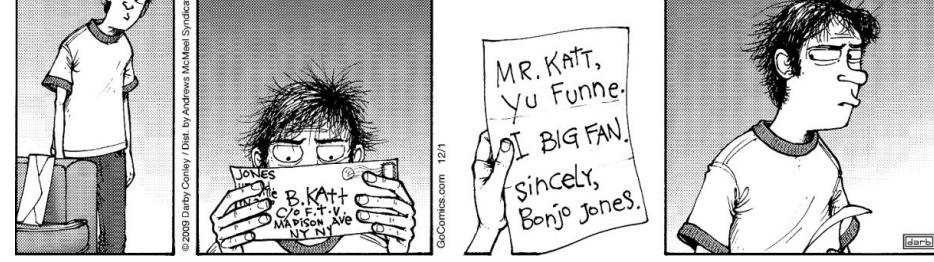
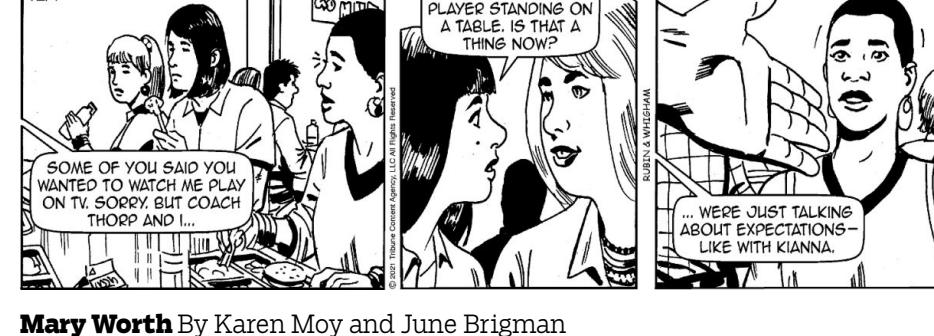
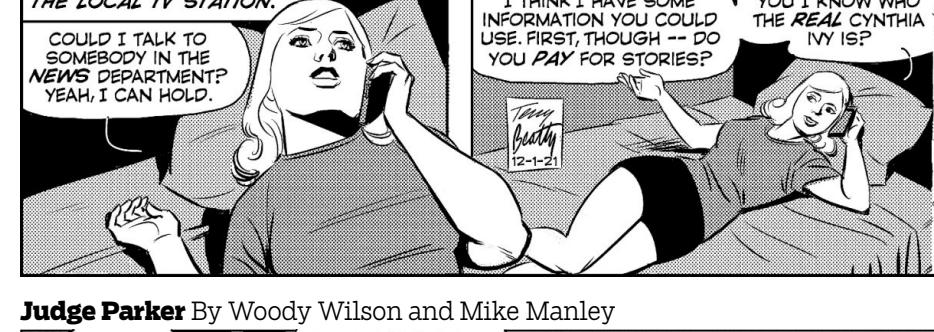
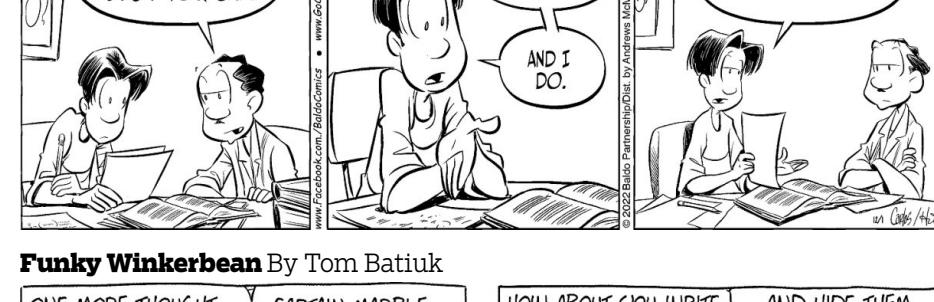
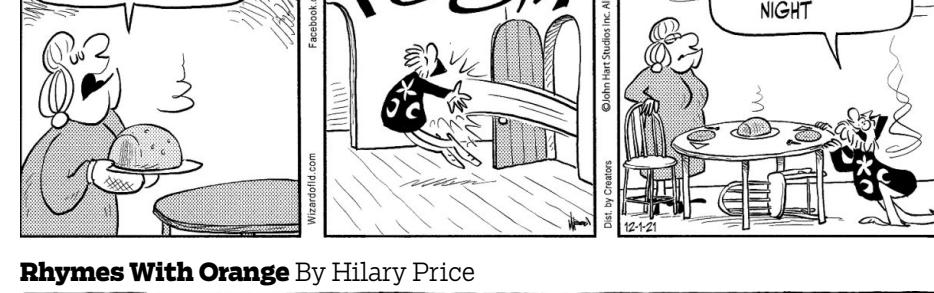
Jumbles: PRUNE MERGE STINKY MATTER

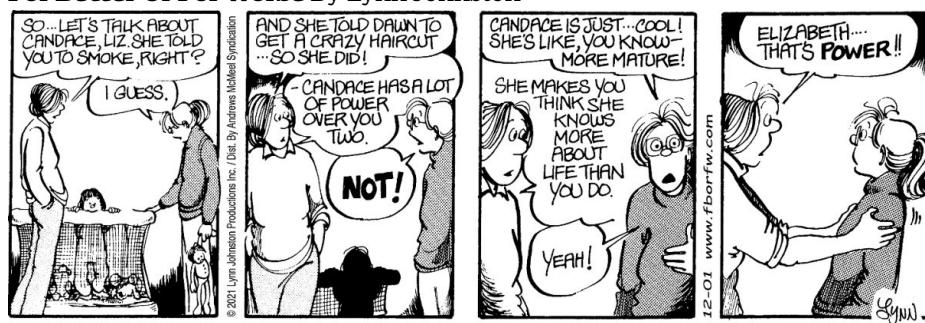
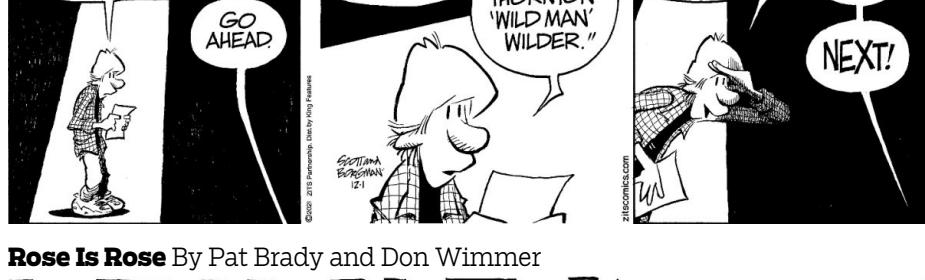
Answer: At Santa's workshop, there was plenty of — MERRYMAKING

Find 10 differences

Answer



Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz**Classic Doonesbury** By Garry Trudeau**Garfield** By Jim Davis**Shoe** By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly**Dustin** By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker**Pearls Before Swine** By Stephan Pastis**Mutts** By Patrick McDonnell**Arctic Circle** By Alex Hallatt**Jump Start** By Robb Armstrong**Get Fuzzy** By Darby Conley**Blondie** By Dean Young and John Marshall**Dilbert** By Scott Adams**Gil Thorp** By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin**Mary Worth** By Karen Moy and June Brigman**Rex Morgan, M.D.** By Terry Beatty**Judge Parker** By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley**Baldo** By Cantu and Castellanos**Funky Winkerbean** By Tom Batiuk**Lio** By Mark Tatulli**Wizard Of Id** By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker**Rhymes With Orange** By Hilary Price**Monty** By Jim Meddick

For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston**B.C.** By Hart**Beetle Bailey** by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker**Hi & Lois** By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne**Hagar The Horrible** By Chris Browne**Non Sequitur** By Wiley Miller**Curtis** By Ray Billingsley**Pickles** By Brian Crane**Zits** By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman**Rose Is Rose** By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer**Mother Goose And Grimm** By Mike Peters**CROSSWORD**

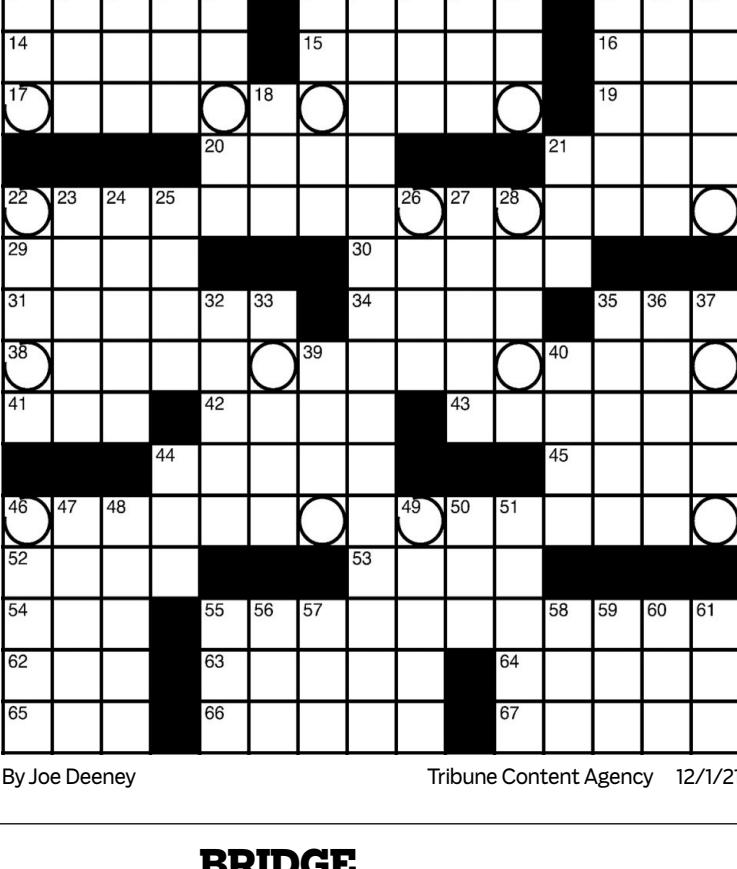
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

1 Surpasses 21, in blackjack
6 Top-level performance
11 NBA legend, familiarly
14 Company that's proud of its quacks?
15 Chopper topper
16 Like the top half of Monaco's flag
17 Craven endeavor
19 In the style of
20 Solar panel spot
21 Blockhead
22 Like energy-efficient buildings, e.g.
29 Together, in music
30 Acid found in olive oil
31 34-Across has one of them
34 Historic ship
35 QB's try
38 Territorial complex dissolved during the Napoleonic Wars

21 Half a Northwest airport
22 Yoga term meaning "force"
23 "Under the weather," say
24 Water-formed ditch
25 Actress Lamarr
26 Director of many "This Is Us" episodes
27 What people who need People might do?
28 Coconut Grove city
32 Swashbuckling Flynn
33 Très chic
35 Tyler of "Archer"
36 Tread heavily
37 Future, e.g.
39 Ten-time NBA All-Star Anthony, to fans

40 Story arc
44 Prefix with day
46 Symbol of affection
47 Lit up
48 Passover staple
49 Hides
50 Wednesday kin
51 Copy, in a way
55 "Industry" network
56 Celestial sphere
57 Customizable Nintendo avatar
58 Green of "Casino Royale"
59 Shade on the beach
60 Windy City train letters
61 Curse

**BRIDGE**

BY STEVE BECKER

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.**NORTH**♦ K Q 9 5
♥ J 6 2
♦ 10 4 3
♣ K 9 2**WEST**♦ 6
♥ Q 10 8 4
♦ A 9
♣ Q J 10 8 5 3**EAST**♦ 7 4 2
♥ 9 7 3
♦ Q J 7 5
♣ A 6 4**SOUTH**♦ A J 10 8 3
♥ A K 5
♦ K 8 6 2
♣ 7The bidding:
South 1 ♠
West 2 ♠
North 2 ♠
East 3 ♠
4 ♠

Opening lead — queen of clubs.

Never say die

Some plays that are regarded as abnormal may become normal when they're made in circumstances where standard procedure won't work. Take this case where South made a seemingly hopeless contract by deviating from the norm.

West led the queen of clubs against four spades, and declarer saw at once that his chances of making the contract were decidedly poor. The opening lead indicated that East had the ace of clubs, which in turn meant that West, who had overcalled on the two-level, had to hold the ace of diamonds.

But South found a way to make his game despite the unfavorable location of the two missing aces. He ducked the queen of clubs and ruffed the ten when West continued the suit.

Recognizing that it was pointless to cross to dummy with a trump to a diamond to the king, he instead led a low diamond from his hand at trick three!

This play certainly violated the standard practice of leading toward strength instead of weakness.

But South was well aware that he had to take unusual steps to have any chance for the contract. After West played the nine of diamonds, dummy's ten lost to East's jack. East returned the nine of hearts, won by South with the ace.

Declarer now made his second good play when he led the six of diamonds, forcing West to win with the ace. West then exited with a club, ruffed by South.

Declarer next played three rounds of trump, ending in dummy, and returned a diamond, finessing the eight after East followed low. South then discarded a heart from dummy on his king of diamonds and so made four spades.

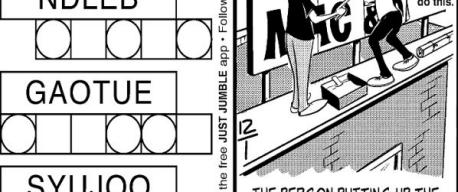
Note that declarer could not have made two diamond tricks had he initiated the suit by first leading low from dummy.

Tomorrow: First things first.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

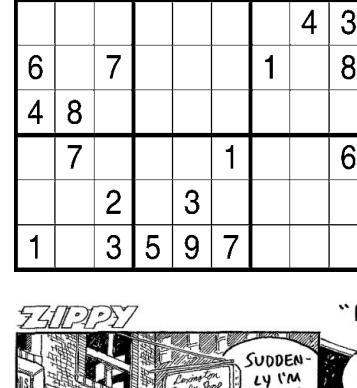
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THE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PERCH GUAVA NORMAL ORNERY

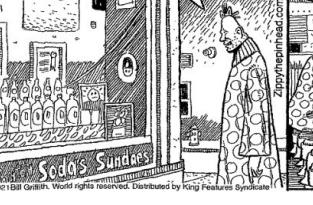
Answer: The sports bar was full of adult males. After their team lost, the bar was full of — "GROAN" MEN

TODAY'S SUDOKU

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

P A T H	W A G Y U	U G G S
E U R O	A T E O N	S U I T
E R I N	R O A L D	B A B Y
L A B O R	M A R K E T	R E X
S E R I E S	R O S A	
E A R T H	S C I E N C E	
P O S E S	E M U L A T E D	
E R E	B L A S T	O R E
R E T A I L E R	S A R A N	
F L A G	F O O T B A L L	
B E S O	I S O B A R	
G E L	O P P O S I T E	D A Y
A W A Y	E R R E D	R O M O
W A Z E	R E E C E	T R E Y
K N E W	S P O T S	A N N O

ZIPPY**DRINKING IT ALL IN****BILL GRIMM**

We need to stop demonizing our food



Heidi Stevens
Balancing Act

A delightful meme is making the rounds on social media, just in time for the diet industry's annual holiday finger-wagging.

It skewers the ridiculous advice that shows up every year, as predictable as a mall Santa, reminding us how much exercise it takes to counteract the naughty calories in a typical holiday meal. ("Nine hours of casual downhill skiing" will forever be my favorite, courtesy of a Huffington Post slideshow on how to burn 3,000 calories — the average consumed at Thanksgiving, apparently.)

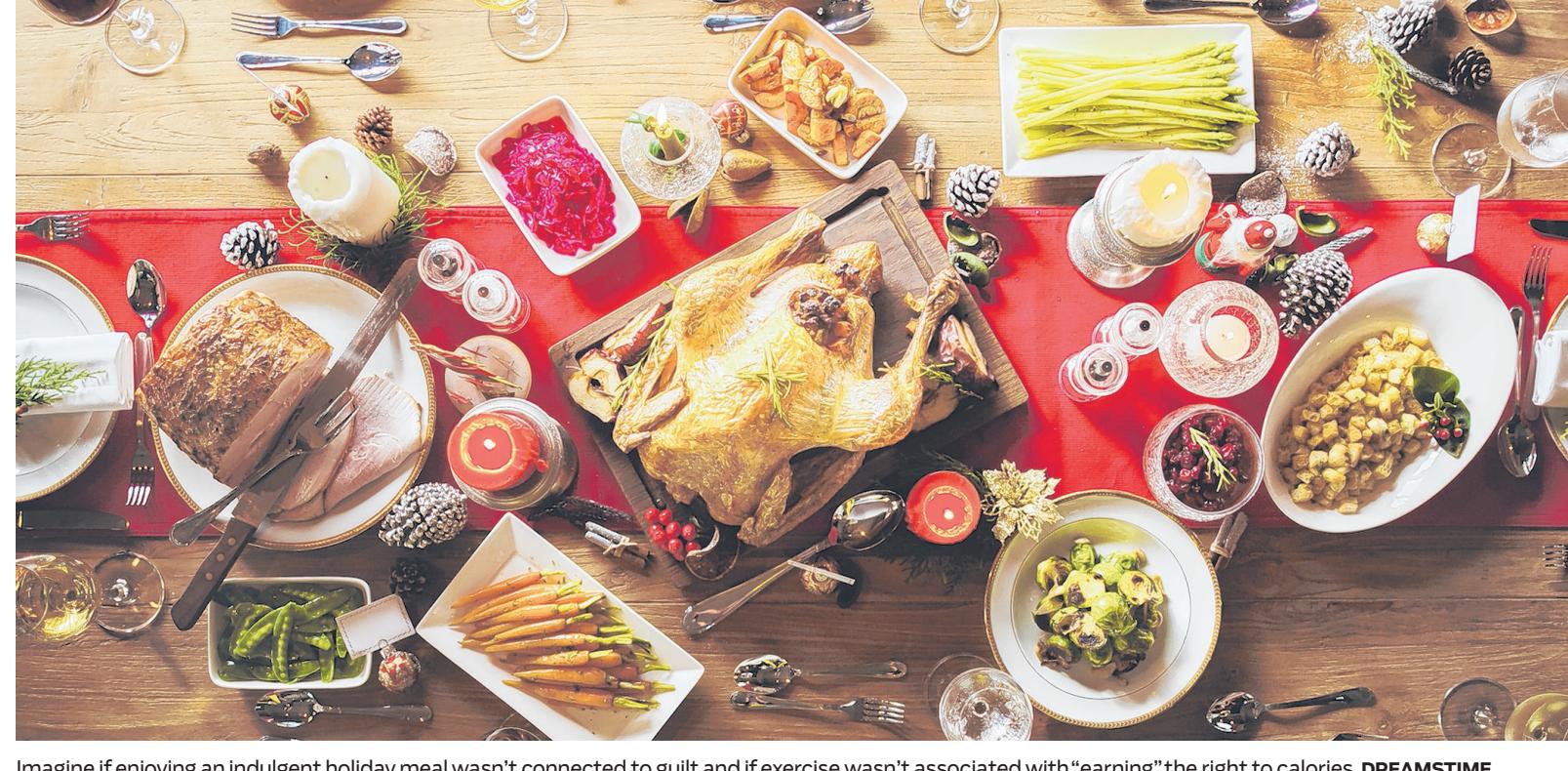
The meme looks like a poster, with a headline banner that reads, "How much exercise does it take to burn off those Thanksgiving calories?" A row of foods — turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, pumpkin pie — sits across from a row of stick figures engaged in exercise.

The fine print is where it gets interesting.

Follow the arrow to see how many calories you need to burn after eating six ounces of turkey and you get ... "NOPE. Exercise is not a punishment." Next to mashed potatoes and gravy ... "NOPE. Eating is not a punishable offense." Next to half a cup of stuffing ... "NOPE. These things do not have to have a toxic partnership."

A toxic partnership indeed.

Imagine if our holiday treats weren't demonized. Imagine if enjoying an indulgent meal wasn't connected to guilt. Imagine if exercise wasn't associated with "earning" us the right to calories, or cleansing us of their shameful



Imagine if enjoying an indulgent holiday meal wasn't connected to guilt and if exercise wasn't associated with "earning" the right to calories. **DREAMSTIME**

presence.

I think we should try to imagine those ifs into existence. This year, of all years.

Eating disorders skyrocketed during the pandemic. Since March 2020, when lockdown orders went into effect in most states, the National Eating Disorders Association helpline has reported a staggering uptick in calls — a 78% year-over-year increase during some months. Teenagers account for up to 35% of the calls.

Providers have been turning away new clients or adding them to months-long waiting lists.

"It's really, really worrisome," author and psychologist Lisa Damour told me in the spring.

A survey conducted for Well Beings and PBS News-Hour Student Reporting Labs asked teens how the pandemic was affecting their mental health and revealed an alarming truth, Damour said.

When asked to select the factors that have a negative impact on their mental

"We should take every opportunity to talk about the pleasures and benefits of food: It tastes good, it brings us together, it gives us energy, and it supports our health."

— Author and psychologist Lisa Damour

well-being, more teenagers selected "weight, fitness level, general health, or body image" than any other category, including social media, racial violence and associated trauma or financial struggles. It was the No. 1 concern for girls and the No. 2 concern for boys, after social media.

The loss of predictable routines and rhythms, cherished after-school activities and face-to-face friendships likely fueled the eating disorder increase, Damour said, with kids (and grown-ups) suffering from a mixture of boredom and isolation, combined with a desire to exert control over some area of their lives.

It's against that backdrop that many of us are gather-

ing — after not gathering last year, in many cases — for holidays. Holidays that revolve around prepping and cooking and eating and drinking.

What better time to untangle the ways we've been taught to feel ashamed for surpassing our FDA-recommended daily calorie intake?

What better year to stop linking — particularly in the earshot of kids — a pre-dinner hike or after-dinner touch football game to burning calories, and instead link them to fresh air, nature, fun?

"We should take every opportunity to talk about the pleasures and benefits of food: It tastes good, it brings us together, it gives us energy, and it supports

our health," Damour told me recently, when I asked her about holidays and eating disorders. "We should steer clear of talking about any food as being 'good' or 'bad' or talking about exercise as something we do to 'repent' for what we've eaten. So long as we frame eating and activity as essential to taking care of ourselves, we're setting the right tone."

Damour said she's increasingly aware, as a mental health practitioner, of the lengths the diet industry goes to assert itself into our daily lives, particularly through social media.

"Algorithms track what social media users look for," she said, "and if they search for information about weight loss, exercise or fitness, they will soon be flooded by ads that push exercise programs, diet plans, and even dangerous supplements."

I appreciate the goofy little Thanksgiving meme's attempt to offset the onslaught.

Next to the cranberry sauce ... "NOPE you can find joy and purpose in them exclusive from one another." And next to the roll with butter ... "NOPE you can also just take a holiday and chill for a few days."

This year, of all years. When our kids and our psyches and our nerves have been through the wringer.

This year, of all years. When we've learned how quickly the traditions we know, the people we love, the rituals we rely on, can leave us — faster than we expected, long before we're ready.

This year, of all years. I hope your holiday meals are bountiful and beautiful and enjoyed with grace, gratitude and zero shame.

Heidi Stevens is a Tribune News Service columnist. You can reach her at heidistevens@gmail.com, find her on Twitter @heidistevens13 or join her Heidi Stevens' Balancing Act Facebook group.

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL CLASS L

Cheney Tech deserves a league of its own



Dom Amore

MANCHESTER — First, we give Windsor its due: a polished, well-coached high school football team, fitting successors to a winning tradition.

Hungry to get back to the playoffs after a rare miss in 2019, the Warriors reentered the state scene with a 62-0 victory at Cheney Tech in the Class L quarterfinals Tuesday night.

"It feels great. From the start in January in the weight room, I

knew what this team was capable of," said quarterback Elijah Cromartie, who threw six touchdown passes before bowing out in the third quarter.

"All week of practice for Cheney Tech, people kept saying it was easy. But I said anything can happen and we have to focus up, and that's what we did."

This is to take nothing from the kids on either team. They did what they could do in the position in which they were put.

But when these teams lined up across from each other at the start of this Class L quarterfinal game Tuesday night, the difference in size was stark enough

Turn to Amore, Page 2

Football quarterfinals

Class LL

Fairfield Prep 21, Greenwich 14
Shelton 42, Hall 28
New Canaan 38, Southington 14
Darien 46, Hamden 19

Class L

St. Joseph 21, Hand 20 (OT)
Windsor 62, Cheney Tech 0
Masuk 20, Naugatuck 17

Maloney 49, Bristol Central 14

Class M

Killingly 49, Gilbert/NW/

Housatonic 14

Branford 7, Avon 6

Rockville 27, Ellington 0

Torrington 37,

Granby/Canton 29

Class S

Bloomfield 50, Morgan 18

New Fairfield 41, Holy Cross 7

Cromwell 29, Notre Dame-Fairfield 20

Ansonia 35, Seymour 14

■ **Semifinal games Sunday; championships Dec. 11**

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL CLASS L

Maloney's defense shuts down Bristol Central

By Lori Riley

Hartford Courant

MERIDEN — Maloney's defense made life miserable for Bristol Central senior quarterback Victor Rosa on Tuesday night in a Class L quarterfinal football game as new UConn football coach Jim Mora watched from the stands at Falcon Field.

Maloney did not let up on Rosa, who committed to UConn over the summer as a receiver, in the Spartans' 49-14 victory over No. 6 seed Bristol Central. Rosa came into the game with 39 rushing touchdowns and eight passing touchdowns. Tuesday night, he had two touchdowns, one for 59 yards, but he was also forced to throw more than he liked and was intercepted

four times, once for a pick-six.

"We had to get 11 hats to the football," Maloney coach Kevin Frederick said. "[Rosa's] dynamic.

"[He's] the best high school player I've seen in a long time. We held them to 14 points. The defense has played great all year."

No. 3 seed Maloney will play seventh-seeded Masuk, a 21-17 winner over Naugatuck, in the Class L semifinal Sunday at 12:30 p.m. at Falcon Field.

Quarterback Angel Arce had four touchdown passes for Maloney (10-1) and was 10-for-12 for 159 yards.

"Angel threw the ball really well tonight, made some good decisions," Frederick said. "He's got

Turn to Maloney, Page 2

UConn WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Status check

Four things we've learned about UConn through four games

By Alexa Philippou

Hartford Courant

Four games is just a fraction of what we'll see from the No. 2 UConn women's basketball team by the end of the 2021-22 season.

The past two and a half weeks have offered fans and coach Geno Auriemma some insight into what the Huskies are working with as they begin their quest for national title No. 12. Moreover, UConn's 73-57 loss to No. 1 South Carolina in the Battle 4 Atlantis championship game last week showed there's plenty of work to be done between now and March/April.

Here's some of the good, bad and ugly we've learned from this season's start.

Depth a work in progress

This season's UConn team was billed as one of the deepest and most talented Auriemma has fielded in awhile. It's certainly possible things will trend in that direction, but the Huskies' depth on paper has yet to translate to the court.

Sophomore Paige Bueckers, senior Christyn Williams and redshirt senior Evina Westbrook are responsible for two-thirds of UConn's points this season. Only one other player, freshman Azzi Fudd, has had a double-figure game, when she hit six 3s for 18 points against No. 13 USF.

Fudd was limited against South Carolina (scoreless in 10 minutes), both in playing time and in what she was able to achieve when she was on the court. Auriemma said she didn't see the floor much because she couldn't get going offensively, and South Carolina's players went right at her when she was on defense.

The biggest issues with depth have come in the post. Senior

Turn to UConn, Page 4

Up next



UConn at Seton Hall

7 p.m. Friday, SNY

NO. 17 UCONN MEN 72, MARYLAND-EASTERN SHORE 63



UConn's R.J. Cole, right, fouls Maryland-Eastern Shore's Dom London during the first half Tuesday in Hartford. Cole scored 25 points on 8-fpr-16 shooting in the Huskies' 72-63 victory. JESSICA HILL/AP

A narrow margin

Cole leads Huskies to a close win over MD-Eastern Shore

By Shreyas Laddha

Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — The UConn men's basketball team held on in a game that was not expected to be this close, defeating Maryland-Eastern Shore 72-63 on Tuesday night at the XL Center.

UMES came into the game 0-26 all-time against ranked teams, a record that seemed like it might be broken against the Huskies.

Here's how it happened.

Keys to the game

In the first half, the rest of the team picked up the slack for Adama Sanogo, UConn's scoring leader for the year. Sanogo shot only 3-for-8 for six points in the first half.

The rest of the team shot 13-for-

21 (54%).

R.J. Cole led all scorers in the first 20 minutes with 11 points on 5-for-8 shooting.

UConn (7-1) started off the with hot shooting from beyond the arc, shooting 5-for-7 from 3.

UConn's calling card is built around defense and hustle, something that was nowhere to be found early, allowing UMES (2-5) to shoot 3-for-7 (42.9%) from 3.

In the second half, UConn shot horribly as a team which allowed UMES to stay too close for comfort.

UConn barely outrebounded UMES, 33-30, and the Hawks' tallest player in their starting lineup is 6 feet 5.

Turning point

UConn seems to have this

pattern where it lets mid-majors hang around the first 8-10 minutes of the game, but this time let things get uncomfortably close. At 12 minutes the Huskies were up one, 16-15.

With 14:44 left in the opening half, Da'Shawn Phillips had his pass stolen by UConn's Andre Jackson, leading to a fast break layup by Cole that put UConn up 18-15.

At the 10:20 mark, a second-chance bucket by Akok Akok, put UConn up 22-17. UMES got within two points when Nathaniel Jr. Pollard connected on a jumper cutting UConn's lead to just 22-20 with 8:31 left.

Although UConn went into the half with a 39-31 lead, its usually stellar defense struggled, allowing the Hawks to shoot 12-for-24

(50%).

UConn struggled to start the second half, allowing a 10-3 run that got UMES within a point at 42-41 with 15:40 to go.

An exasperated UConn coach Dan Hurley looked irate in the huddle during a subsequent media timeout at the 15:40 mark.

The Huskies responded with a 11-5 run to take a 53-46 lead and held on.

Player of the game

Cole. His scoring was the reason UConn held on to win. Every time UConn looked like it would give up its lead, he came through with a timely bucket. Cole finished with 25 points on 8-for-16 shooting.

Turn to Huskies, Page 4

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SPORTS**UP NEXT**

Patriots: at Bills, Monday, 8:15 p.m.
Giants: at Dolphins, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Jets: Eagles, Sunday, 1 p.m.
UConn MBB: Grambling State (Gampel), Saturday, 4 p.m.; Big East-Big 12 Battle: at West Virginia, Dec. 8, 7 p.m.; Never Forget Tribute Classic: vs. St. Bonaventure (Newark, N.J.), Dec. 11, 3:30 p.m.
UConn WBB: at Seton Hall, Friday, 7 p.m.; Notre Dame (Gampel), Sunday, noon; at Georgia Tech, Dec. 9, 7 p.m.
Celtics: 76ers, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; at Jazz, Friday, 9 p.m.; at Trail Blazers, Saturday, 10 p.m.
Knicks: Bulls, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Nuggets, Saturday, 1 p.m.; at Spurs, Tuesday, 8:30 p.m.
Nets: Timberwolves, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Bulls, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; at Mavericks, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
UConn hockey: at Merrimack, Friday, 7 p.m.; Merrimack, Saturday, 3 p.m.; at AIC, Dec. 9, 7 p.m.
Bruins: at Predators, Thursday, 8 p.m.; Lightning, Saturday, 7 p.m.; at Canucks, Dec. 8, 9 p.m.
Rangers: Flyers, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Sharks, Friday, 7 p.m.; Blackhawks, Saturday, 8 p.m.
Wolf Pack: at Providence, Friday, 7 p.m.; Utica, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Belleville, Dec. 8, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO

BASKETBALL
6 p.m.: Womens College: Rutgers at Pittsburgh. (Live) ACC
6:30 p.m.: Central Michigan at Xavier. (Live) FS1
7:15 p.m.: Memphis at Georgia. (Live) SEC
7:15 p.m.: Louisville at Michigan State. (Live) ESPN
7:15 p.m.: Virginia Tech at Maryland. (Live) ESPN2
7:15 p.m.: Nebraska at NC State. (Live) ESPNU
7:30 p.m.: 76ers at Celtics. (Live), NBCSB
8 p.m.: Womens College: Ohio State at Syracuse. (Live) ACC
8:30 p.m.: Texas Tech at Providence. (Live) FS1
9:15 p.m.: Michigan at North Carolina. (Live) ESPN
9:15 p.m.: Wisconsin at Georgia Tech. (Live) ESPN2
9:15 p.m.: Miami at Penn State. (Live) ESPNU
10:30 p.m.: Kings at Clippers. (Live) NBA
GOLF
1 a.m. Thu.: Asian Tour Golf Laguna Phuket Championship, First Round. (Live) GOLF
5 a.m. Thu.: Sunshine Tour Golf SA Open Championship, First Round. (Live) GOLF
HOCKEY
3 p.m.: Red Wings at Bruins. (Taped) NHL
7 p.m.: Flyers at Rangers. (Live), MSG
7:30 p.m.: Avalanche at Maple Leafs. (Live) SPRTNET
10 p.m.: Penguins at Edmonton Oilers. (Live) TNT, SPRTNET
SOCCER
12 p.m.: Italian Serie B Soccer Pa.m.: vs Brescia. (Live) FSP
8 p.m.: CONCACAF League Soccer Semifinal, Leg 2 - Motagua vs Forge FC. (Live) FSP
TENNIS
8 a.m.: ATP Tennis Sao Paulo-ATP Challenger, Early Rounds. (Live) TENNIS
10 a.m.: Davis Cup Tennis Quarterfinals Match-Up TBD. (Live) CBSSN
2:30 p.m.: ATP Tennis Sao Paulo-ATP Challenger, Early Rounds. (Live) TENNIS

YANKEES

Free agent inactivity could signal new era in the Bronx

By Matthew Roberson

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — In the span of one holiday weekend, the entire tone of the MLB offseason shifted.

The lockout is about to burst through the door like Kramer, and in anticipation of that, general managers, players and agents answered one of the most compelling questions of the winter. Less than two weeks ago, Yankee general manager Brian Cashman said that he was under the impression that many free agents were ready to sign their deals now, rather than waiting for the labor issues that will necessitate a lockout to be resolved.

As soon as the Thanksgiving plates were cleared, we got a definitive answer on that. Free agents were ready to sign, but none of them were ready to sign with the Yankees.

Over a roughly 72-hour span, the top center fielder on the market went to New York's other team, one of the best available starting pitchers went to the Yankees' division rival in Toronto, and the Texas Rangers showed the type of aggressive spending habits that used to define the Yankees.

With Corey Seager going to Texas on Monday and Robbie Ray hitching his wagon to the Mariners, plus reports that the Yankees had also taken themselves out of the Max Scherzer sweepstakes before the ace reportedly agreed to terms

with the crosstown Mets, Cashman looks like he'll be returning to the lodge empty handed after his first hunt of the season. Scherzer's \$130 million, three-year offer from the Mets is downright Yankee-esque. Or, at least, that type of money used to be the Yankee calling card.

There is still plenty of time left in the offseason for Cashman to change this perception, but recent events signal a new age in the Bronx. The Yankees are no longer trying to outspend everyone. Rather, Cashman is in his "outthink everyone" era.

The big moves of the last four days may wind up as pre-lockout overpays, quick-trigger reactions to a fast-approaching deadline that will make this type of stuff impossible during a lockout. Still, the Yankees have been eerily quiet, and at least initially, uncharacteristically frugal compared to their competition.

Frazier to the Cubs: Clint Frazier, the Yankees much-ballyhooed former prospect that never quite panned out, is headed to Chicago.

Frazier agreed to a one-year deal with the Chicago Cubs on Tuesday, according to multiple reports. The news comes after the Yankees designated Frazier for assignment, along with now-former teammates Tyler Wade and Rougned Odor, on Nov. 19. One week ago, the team outright released he and Odor after failing to find trade partners like they did for Wade.

METS ANALYSIS

Here's what the Mets can expect from Scherzer

By Matthew Roberson

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Now that some time has passed, confirming that it wasn't a dream, reality has set in.

Max Scherzer is a New York Met.

After three Cy Young awards, eight All-Star nods, and over 3,000 strikeouts, Scherzer has agreed to spend at least the next two years of his baseball life in Flushing, with an option to run it back for a third year if he likes it enough. The Mets are expected to officially introduce Scherzer in a virtual press conference on Wednesday. Getting a record-setting \$43.3 million per year surely helped sway Scherzer's decision, and now the Mets have one of the very best pitchers of the last 10 years joining forces with undoubtedly the best pitcher of the last five.

In Scherzer — one of the few people on the planet who could usurp Jacob deGrom's ace status, though Scherzer will definitely get in line and become the most overqualified No. 2 in the league — the Mets are getting a guy who's led all pitchers in Wins Above Replacement since 2012. During that time, Scherzer also has the highest strikeouts per nine innings of any starter who's thrown at least 1,000 innings. No starter from this period has struck out a higher percentage of hitters than Scherzer (36.1%) either. For the old school crowd, he's also tops in wins and total innings pitched over the last ten seasons, and he has a 2.91 ERA to boot.

This is an ironclad Hall of Fame resume, and while the 14 years of wear and tear on his arm might give people pause, Scherzer has shown no signs of slowing down. His 2.46 ERA and 0.86 WHIP from last season were both the lowest of his illustrious career. Pitchers losing their fastball is usually one of the first steps toward irreparable decline, and Scherzer's has remained at an average velocity of roughly 94 miles per hour since 2017. His devious slider has maintained its bite too.

In 2016 (Scherzer's first Cy Young season with the Nationals), he threw 811 sliders, according to Baseball-Savant. Batters hit .162 against it with a laughable .302 slugging percentage. Last season, while Scherzer unspooled only 551 sliders (a sign of a veteran pitcher adapting his process as he ages), he held opponents to a .143 average, and .271 slugging percentage. With a changeup that can be equally unfair at its best, Scherzer has a collage of pitches that have rewarded him with two separate contracts worth at least \$30 million a year.

With his decision to return to the NL East, this time in blue and orange, the Big Apple now plays home to baseball's three best right-handed pitchers; Two of them, miraculously, play for the Mets. Assuming deGrom's litany of frightening elbow and forearm troubles are behind him when it's time for the 2022 season to begin, no team in the league can match the firepower atop the Mets' rotation. Even if deGrom's injuries persist, or he simply shows signs of being human, Scherzer is now behind him as an ultra-reliable insurance policy.

Amore

from Page 1

to be frightening. One can record the scores dispassionately back home or in an office, but seeing it in person I couldn't help but think, "Man, somebody could get really hurt here. Badly."

Thankfully, no one apparently did. Windsor named its score and will advance to the Class semis against top seed St. Joseph, a 21-20 winner in overtime over Hand-Madison on Sunday, which figures to be a more competitive game.

Mismatches and blowouts will always be part of high school football. It takes a lot for me to parachute into the high school scene and call for a structural change; it's not my way. But this was a lot, and it was a compelling case for putting the tech schools in their own conference.

"Our kids earn a right to play in a playoff system," Cheney Tech coach Adam Starvish said. "The CIAC decides where we play based on whatever they decide."

No tech school has ever won a state playoff game, and it would appear tech schools could have a safer, more beneficial experience in their own division. That, and other changes to high school football as we've known, are a discussion for another day perhaps.

"This is one game; it doesn't make a season," Starvish said. "The state playoffs, only four teams are going to win. Maybe it will be Windsor. I wish them luck. They're a great team, a competitive team."

"Seven teams are going to have the same fate as us: They're going to lose. Scores are scores. We won the [Connecticut Technical Conference]; to us, that is our championship. So we are champions."

"It is what it is. It's not great, [but] it's also motivation for next year. This is going to be used as a learning tool, 'Hey, if you want to play against teams like Windsor, you have a lot of work to do.'"

Starvish coached it to the hilt and the Beavers, who won the CTC with a 9-1 record, competed courageously. Senior Xavier McCall made a nice run deep into Windsor territory in the third quarter, but

this was an unfortunate a matchup.

Now back to Windsor. The Warriors won the 7-on-7 "Grip It and Rip It" tournament last July in New Canaan, giving Cromartie, who played as a freshman and lost his sophomore season to COVID-19, a chance to fine-tune his skills.

In the regular season, he completed 54.1% of his passes for 2,251 yards and 19 touchdowns as the Warriors (9-1), who lost only to St. Joe's, earned their way back to the Class L tournament.

Cromartie and his surrounding cast were on point Tuesday night, even if it was just a tune-up, throwing five touchdown passes in the first half, starting with a 49-yard to Achillius White on the second play from scrimmage. Then he threw TDs of 38 yards to Elijah Lopez, 35 to Shawn Bell, 21 to J.J. Wolcott and 18 yards to Lopez. Throw in rushing scores from Bell (15 yards) and Jaden Copening (29 yards) and the Warriors led 49-0 at the half, by which time the game had mercifully switched to running time.

Cromartie threw his sixth TD to Jaion Williams before coming out of the game.

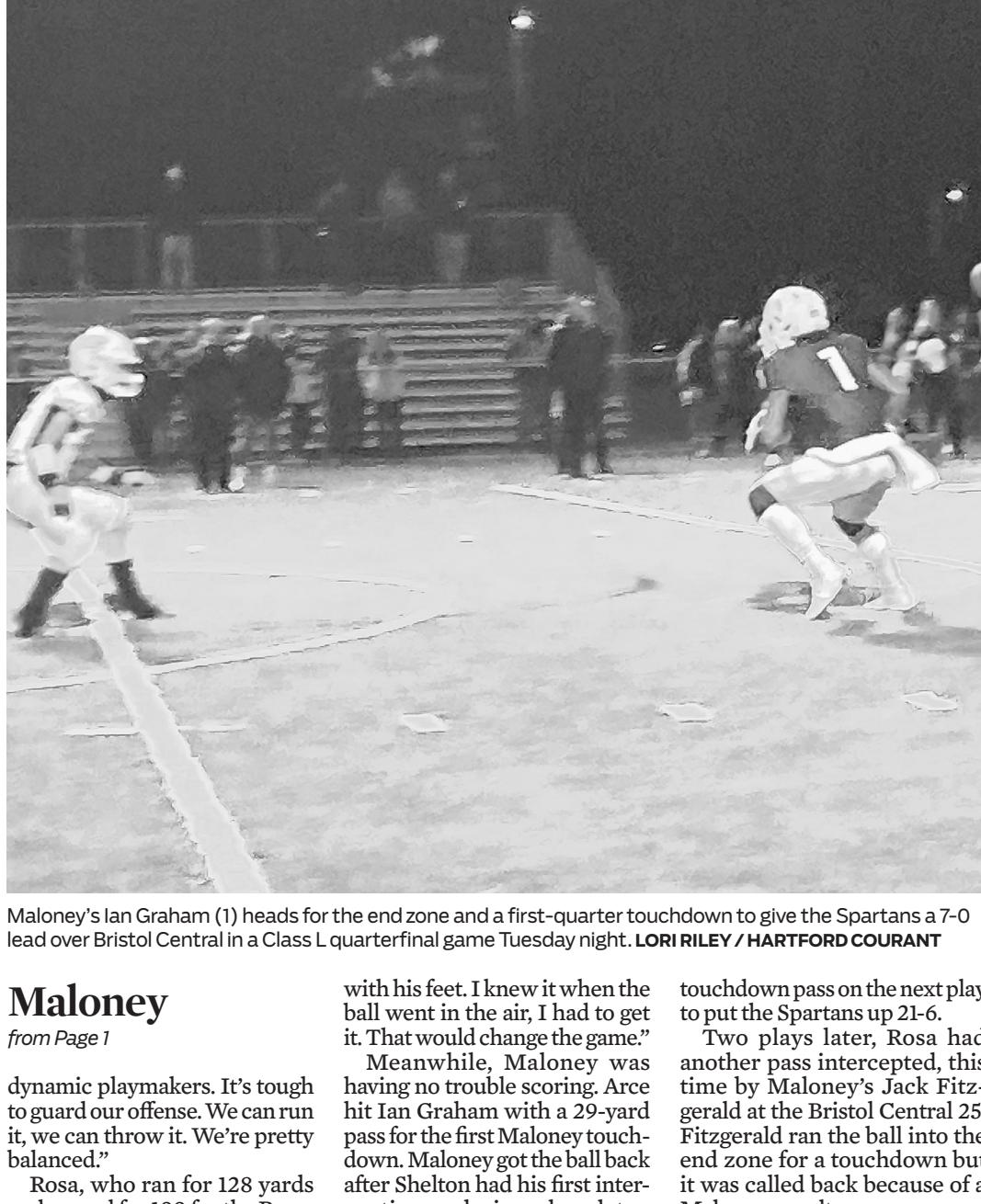
"When Elijah came here, he always wanted to be in the playoffs," Windsor coach Rob Fleeting said. "His freshman year we didn't make it [and] we didn't have last year. He's built for this."

"He's a very, very good quarterback. I hope some colleges start to look at him. He knows what he's looking at; he throws a great ball. I'm glad he's on our side."

While the Warriors were doing what they wanted against a overmatched opponent, it should be noted that UConn coach Jim Mora made a wise choice stopping by Windsor High on Monday. Fleeting's is the place to go for great, skilled athletes who have been well-coached. Windsor, after all, sent two alums, Tyler Coyle, who started at UConn and ended up at Purdue, and Jason Pinnock (Pitt) to the NFL in last year's draft, and Terrence Knightly, Chris Baker and Damion Scaife before that.

This group certainly has Windsor-worthy talent, though on this night it was hard to watch.

Dom Amore can be reached at damore@courant.com



Maloney's Ian Graham (1) heads for the end zone and a first-quarter touchdown to give the Spartans a 7-0 lead over Bristol Central in a Class L quarterfinal game Tuesday night. **LORI RILEY / HARTFORD COURANT**

Maloney

from Page 1

dynamic playmakers. It's tough to guard our offense. We can run it, we can throw it. We're pretty balanced."

Rosa, who ran for 128 yards and passed for 100 for the Rams (9-2), fumbled early in the game and Maloney recovered the ball and scored four plays later to go up 7-0. He was picked off three times by Maloney in the first half, including a pick six early in the second quarter by Rashawn Shelton, whose touchdown gave Maloney a 28-6 lead.

"He's a great athlete," Shelton said. "He makes things happen

with his feet. I knew it when the ball went in the air, I had to get it. That would change the game."

Meanwhile, Maloney was having no trouble scoring. Arce hit Ian Graham with a 29-yard pass for the first Maloney touchdown. Maloney got the ball back after Shelton had his first interception and nine plays later, Kenneth McMillan scored on a 1-yard run to make it 14-0.

Bristol Central came right back when Rosa slipped free of the defense and ran 59 yards for a touchdown to put the Rams on the board 14-6, but it wasn't close for long. Josiah Gonzalez had a 54-yard kick return that brought Maloney to the 25, and Arce hit Austin Studley with a

touchdown pass on the next play to put the Spartans up 21-6.

Two plays later, Rosa had another pass intercepted, this time by Maloney's Jack Fitzgerald at the Bristol Central 25. Fitzgerald ran the ball into the end zone for a touchdown but it was called back because of a Maloney penalty.

Bristol Central put together a series, including a 50-yard pass by Rosa, and Rosa scored on a 2-yard run and the conversion to cut Maloney's lead to 28-14 but Maloney got one more touchdown with 1:31 left to go into halftime with a 35-14 lead.

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com

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NHL															
EASTERN CONFERENCE			WESTERN CONFERENCE												
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA	
Toronto	23	16	1	33	66	49									
Florida	21	14	3	31	77	56									
Tampa Bay	20	12	5	37	64	56									
Detroit	22	10	9	3	23	61	71								
Boston	18	11	7	0	22	56	71								
Buffalo	22	8	11	3	19	64	77								
Montreal	24	6	16	2	14	55	85								
Ottawa	19	4	14	1	9	46	73								
METRO.	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA								
Washington	22	14	3	53	78	52									
Carolina	20	15	4	1	31	66	43								
NY. Rangers	20	13	4	3	29	60	54								
Pittsburgh	22	10	7	5	25	63	61								
Columbus	19	12	7	0	24	67	59								
New Jersey	20	9	7	4	22	59	63								
Philadelphia	20	8	4	2	40	61	61								
NY. Islanders	17	5	10	2	12	32	52								

NBA					
EASTERN CONFERENCE			WESTERN CONFERENCE		
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	PCT	GB
Brooklyn	14	6	7	.570	—
New York	11	9	5	.550	3
Boston	11	10	5	.524	3 1/2
Philadelphia	11	10	5	.524	3 1/2
Toronto	9	12	4	.429	9 1/2
SOUTHEAST	GP	W	L	PCT	GB
Miami	13	8	5	.619	—
Washington	13	8	5	.619	—
Charlotte	13	10	5	.565	1
Atlanta	11	10	5	.524	9
Orlando	4	18	18	.182	9 1/2
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago	14	8	6	.636	—
Milwaukee	13	8	6	.619	1 1/2
Cleveland	11	10	5	.524	2 1/2
Indiana	9	14	3	.391	4
Detroit	4	16	20	.200	9 1/2

COLLEGE FOOTBALL					
COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF			COLLEGE FOOTBALL		
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB	
Georgia	12	0	.500	—	
Michigan	11	1	.455	12	0
Alabama	11	1	.455	6	Notre Dame
Oklahoma St	11	1	.455	8	Mississippi
Ohio State	10	2	.455	10	Baylor
Mississippi St	10	2	.455	12	BYU
Michigan St	10	2	.455	12	Iowa
Iowa	10	2	.455	14	Oklahoma
Pittsburgh	10	2	.455	16	Wake Forest
Utah	9	3	.188	18	NC State
San Diego State	11	1	.455	13	South Carolina
South Carolina	9	3	.188	13	Georgia Tech
Arkansas	9	3	.188	13	Florida
Florida	9	3	.188	13	Alabama
Washington	9	3	.188	13	Notre Dame
Notre Dame	9	3	.188	13	Michigan
Michigan	9	3	.188	13	Georgia
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Mississippi St	9	3	.188	13	Alabama
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Notre Dame	9	3	.188	13	Michigan
Michigan	9	3	.188	13	Georgia
Georgia	9	3	.188	13	Mississippi St
Mississippi St					

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
 Friday: at Seton Hall, 7 p.m.,
 SNY

UCONN
 COURANT.COM/SPORTS

 COVERAGE PRESENTED BY
RIS CASSI & DAVIS
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Maryland-Eastern Shore's Nathaniel Pollard Jr., left, is pressured by UConn's R.J. Cole in the first half Tuesday in Hartford. JESSICA HILL/AP

Huskies

from Page 1

Stat of the game

UConn's offensive droughts will be a storyline to watch, as they shot just 8-for-26 (30.8%) in the second half.

Big-picture implications

UConn plays its next game on Saturday at Gampel Pavilion against Grambling State. The Huskies continue their hot streak against mid-majors, improving to 5-0.

Tyrese Martin sat out today's game with a sprained left wrist, that will be something to monitor moving forward. ... Sanogo got massaged throughout the game and at one point left for the locker room only to later come back.

Shreyas Laddha can be reached at sladdha@courant.com.

UCONN 72
MARYLAND-EASTERN SHORE 63
UMES
M FG FT RB A PF PT
Styles 25 4-11 2-2 3 1 3 11
Voyles 18 1-6 1-2 4 2 1 3
Phillip 34 4-8 2-5 5 1 2 12
Pollard Jr. 23 4-5 1-2 6 1 2 9
London 33 2-5 0-0 2 1 2 4
Mensah 11 4-5 0-0 0 0 1 12
Nugent 15 3-4 1-2 2 2 1 7
Davis 15 2-6 1-2 2 0 0 5
Thompson 19 0-1 0-0 3 1 5 0
Akinsanya 5 0-0 0-0 1 0 0 0
TOTALS — 24-55 8-15 30 9 17 63

Three-point goals: 7-18, 38.9% (Mensah 4-5, Phillips 2-3,

Styles 1-3, Pollard Jr. 0-1, London 0-1, Nugent 0-1, Davis

0-1, Thompson 0-1, Voyles 0-2). FG pct.: 47.1%. FT pct.:

53.3. Team rebounds: 2. Turnovers: 13 (Styles 5, Phillip

2, Pollard Jr. 2, Team 2, Nugent, Davis). Blocks: 3 (Styles,

Phillips, Pollard Jr.). Steals: 6 (Voyles 2, Phillips 2, Pollard

Jr. 2).

UConn
M FG FT RB A PF PT
Cole 38 8-16 7-7 5 4 1 25
Whaley 31 2-6 4-7 7 0 2 8
Sanogo 23 3-8 2-6 2 1 1 8
Hawkins 25 2-5 0-0 3 1 3 5
Jackson 21 2-4 0-0 7 4 2 4
Gaffney 25 2-5 0-0 3 5 3 6
Akok 4 1-1 0-0 2 0 0 2
Polley 32 4-10 4-5 2 0 0 14
TOTALS — 31 32 — 63
UMES 39 33 — 72

Officials: Potter, Driscoll, Hall. Att.: 8,782 at XL Center, Hartford.

Associated Press
Golden leads Butler over Saginaw Valley State, 68-57

Bryce Golden and Jair Bolden each posted 15 points as Butler got past Saginaw Valley State 68-57 on Tuesday night at Indianapolis.

Jayden Taylor added 11 points and Aaron Thompson had six assists for Butler (5-3).

Delano Smith had 12 points for the Cardinals. James Toohey and Maurice Barnett each had 11 points.

Georgetown 91, Longwood 83

At Washington, D.C., Collin Holloway had a career-high 23 points as Georgetown won the nonconference game.

Aminu Mohammed added 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Hoyas (3-3). Kaiden Rice scored 15, while Dante Harris pitched in with 14 points and seven rebounds.

— Associated Press

UConn

from Page 1

Olivia Nelson-Ododa, sophomore Aaliyah Edwards and graduate transfer Dorka Juhász combined are responsible for just 21% of UConn's scoring and are averaging just 12.8 rebounds. Nelson-Ododa stepped up against South Carolina, particularly on the defensive end, but Auriemma wants to see her attempt more shots. Edwards has seemingly taken a step back from where she was in her breakout 2021 NCAA Tournament, and Juhász often looks rushed. She had a team-high five turnovers against South Carolina.

Other than that, sophomore Nikka Mühl's minutes are way down (8.3 per game), and when she's out there she hasn't been as effective as she was last season. Freshman Caroline Ducharme also has played sparingly and didn't see the floor at all against the Gamecocks. UConn's depth issues also have been exacerbated by the fact that junior Aubrey Griffin is still recovering from a high-ankle sprain and hasn't yet suited up for the Huskies.

Bueckers still good, and the Huskies need her to be

Because UConn was expected to have more depth, most assumed Bueckers would have to do less work, particularly on the scoring front. That hasn't been the case. In fact, both her scoring average and usage rate are currently higher than last year's.

Bueckers' career-high 34 points in UConn's season opener propelled the Huskies over Arkansas, and she was the leading scorer with 21 and 19 in gritty battles against USF and South Carolina. She was shooting a ridiculous 81.5% on two-pointers across UConn's first three games, though that mark has since fallen to a still-impressive 67.4%. While her 3-point shooting was excellent most of her freshman season, her 27.8% clip from the arc this year is uncharacteristically poor. Meanwhile, her assist numbers are up (she's averaging 6.5 dimes

per game), and she has shown growth on the defensive end.

Auriemma was not pleased with how Bueckers' effectiveness tapered off in the second half of the South Carolina game, but her 13 points before the break were a big reason why the Huskies led the Gamecocks most of the first half. Even after that loss, Bueckers reaffirmed that she's the Huskies' best player, their go-to option when little else is working and among the best players across the country.

Areas of improvement

Early on, UConn's defense was a cause for concern, particularly when they gave up 80 points to an unranked Arkansas team. The Huskies actually did a respectable job on that end of the floor, especially in the first half, against a team full of weapons in South Carolina. Auriemma went as far to say the team "accomplished our job defensively but not offensively." The unit should only improve as the season goes on, and it'll help once they get Griffin back.

UConn's 20-2 first-quarter run against the Gamecocks largely worked because of its ability to get out in transition. Improved defense/rebounding would only help spur more offense, but in reality the Huskies can't rely solely on beating opponents up the floor — their half-court offense needs a lot of work. Auriemma said it himself: "Right now our half-court offense isn't very good. Again, it's early, but it's not very good."

The fact that some of the Huskies' rebounding stats are among the worst in the country is shocking for a UConn team. Despite being dominated on the glass most of the South Carolina game, the Huskies trailed by just 3 going into the fourth, at which point they were -12 on the boards. Auriemma assured that rebounding is "always fixable." That would significantly help the Huskies on both ends.

Auriemma has also discussed that Bueckers needs more reliable help around her, particularly in another guard who can

knock down shots. And for as impactful as Nelson-Ododa was against the Gamecocks, she needs more support alongside her as well. Once the posts are able to establish themselves as more of a threat, that'll open up more 3-point opportunities, where UConn can really thrive.

Still many positives

Even after the disappointing outcome of the South Carolina game, there's no reason to ring the alarm bells. It's not as if the first four games haven't been without their positives.

On the net, Williams and Westbrook have upped their level of play. Williams was particularly unstoppable against Minnesota and, in general, looks much more aggressive getting to the rim. Westbrook's 3-point shooting has already been much better than last season.

The next step for both is to establish the consistency Auriemma demands, and to come through even more in big games.

Fudd's emergence against USF marked a step in the right direction, even if she wasn't totally ready yet for a high-stakes 1-vs-2 showdown in just her fourth collegiate game. UConn's close win over USF looks better by the day, as the Bulls proceeded to take down Oregon and Stanford, the defending national champs, in back-to-back games.

Nelson-Ododa also did a lot of great things defensively against South Carolina that she didn't demonstrate last season, a definite sign of progress. For three quarters against the clear No. 1 team in the country, UConn was right there. While the final 10 minutes defined the game, the first 30 shouldn't be forgotten either. Even Auriemma saw the bright side.

"For 30 minutes, I thought we did everything we set out to do," he said.

There may be inherent flaws to his team that can't be fixed, but the next four months will be about addressing the ones that are. After all, it's not how you start, but how you finish that counts at UConn.

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UCONN FOOTBALL
Mora adds general manager, zeroes in on offensive coordinator

 By Dom Amore
 Hartford Courant

offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach in December 2018 at age 30. His teams were among the most potent offenses in FCS, averaging 296.5 passing yards and 29.5 points per game in 2019, his first season. In three seasons, Maine was 14-13, with a win over FBS UMass this past season.

Prior to joining Maine, Charlton was a grad assistant at Boston College, working with Steve Addazio and Ryan Day.

Mora, who was hired Nov. 11 and officially took over on Sunday, has made numerous scholarship offers nationwide recently. But true to his stated plans, Mora has visited Connecticut high schools and watched games.

"Preston possesses a relentless work ethic and has a variety of experiences and knowledge that will help to enhance and improve our recruiting operation," Mora said in a statement from UConn. "This is a critical position for our program, and I know Preston is the right man for the job."

—

—

The hiring of Charlton is not finalized but was close on Tuesday afternoon, according to UConn sources. He would be a considered a coup for UConn and critical in upgrading the offense, particularly the quarterback position.

—

—

—

Maine made Charlton the youngest head coach in Division I when he was promoted from

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NFL NOTES
Patriots know Allen can beat them with his arm — and legs

Courant news services

With 25 touchdown passes, he can certainly beat you with his arm. But Allen's ability to run off script, or even with designed plays, has been a significant edge against most teams. It's an element of the offense the Patriots know they'll have to deal with Monday night.

Allen is the team's second leading rusher behind Devin Singletary. He not only takes off on his own, but also has read-option plays, and runs designed sweeps.

With that, the Bills quarterback has taken off with the ball a whopping 69 times in 11 games for 383 yards. He's averaging 5.6 yards per carry. And, he's used his legs to rush on 30 first downs.

He only sits behind Baltimore's Lamar Jackson (707 yards) and Philadelphia's Jalen Hurts (695 yards) in terms of yards and overall carries for a quarterback.

Jerod Mayo, the Patriots inside linebacker coach, says Allen's ability to throw on the fly, or take off if no one's open makes it extremely difficult for a defense to defend.

"It's tough. Any time you have a big, fast, strong guy that can run and also has a cannon for an arm, he definitely poses a threat to the defense," Mayo said on a video call Tuesday. "I wish I could say one person could stop him, but honestly, I haven't seen anyone do it yet."

"It's going to take all eleven guys on the field as well as a good game plan to keep this guy contained in the pocket. We'll see what happens."

— Karen Guregan, Boston Herald

Giants: McKinney emerging as top safety

Julian Love said earlier this season he would dye half of his hair blond to match Xavier McKinney's black-and-white cookie 'do if his teammate made the Pro Bowl. At the time it seemed like a safe statement to make.

He probably should start thinking about making a barber appointment now, though.

McKinney is quickly emerging

as not just one of the key pieces in a surging Giants defense, but one of the top playmaking safeties in the NFL. No one who plays his position has more than his five interceptions, and no safety in the NFC even has more than three.

That he has played just 17 games in the pros, essentially a rookie season's worth, and is producing at such a high level is catching the eyes of many around the league.

The Giants? They knew he had it in him all along.

"Zay is a very, very intelligent player," Joe Judge said of the second-round pick from a year ago. "Very intelligent. He's a guy that when you evaluated him coming out of college [at Alabama], you saw him all over the field making plays, blitzing, playing the deep part of the field, matching up in man. He's got a really, really, big skill set. For us, we can use him in a lot of different ways."

They way they have been doing it mostly has been as a centerfielder.

"At this point, the most effective thing we can do with him for the betterment of the defense is playing a lot of the deep part of the field," Judge said. "You've got to have someone back there who has the range and ability to play the deep part of the field sideline to sideline, but then also someone who has the awareness and instincts to get there and get a good jump on [the ball]," Judge said. "The reality is that the arms of the quarterbacks in this league are better than the feet of the guys tracking them down, so you've got to make sure you get a good jump on it, take the right angles, and have the ball skills to finish."

Notes: S Logan Ryan was activated off COVID/reserve on Tuesday, but at the expense of another defensive back. Second-year CB Darnay Holmes was placed on injured reserve with a rib injury suffered on his return of an interception Sunday. His designation leaves the Giants thin at cornerback with starter Adoree' Jackson suffering a knee injury Sunday that knocked him out of the game (although he remains on the active roster).

— Tom Rock, Newsday

NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Meyer not interested in college job



Urban Meyer has no interest in coaching college football again. The Associated Press reported Monday that the 57-year-old coach is fully committed to the Jaguars and has no plans to return to college football. Meyer shot down speculation about leaving the NFL for USC after the Trojans fired coach Clay Helton in September, and his name was immediately linked to Notre Dame on Monday after coach Brian Kelly bolted for LSU. Meyer spent five years (1996-2000) as receivers coach in South Bend, Indiana, and even called the Fighting Irish a "dream job" while he was at Florida in 2008. The Trojans hired Lincoln Riley away from Oklahoma on Monday. Meyer said earlier this season "there's no chance" he would take the USC job. No one expected it to be the last time Meyer's name would be connected to a collegiate job opening. After all, he found success at every stop in his three-plus decades in the college ranks. He built winners at Bowling Green, Utah, Florida and Ohio State. He won two national championships with the Gators (2006, 2008) and another with the Buckeyes (2014).

Báez joining Tigers on \$140M deal



Javier Báez is taking his high motor to Motor City. Báez is nearing agreement on a six-year, \$140 million contract with the Tigers, giving the club a dynamic bat for the middle of their order. Báez, who turns 29 on Wednesday, hit .265 with 31 homers and 87 RBIs in 138 games with the Cubs and Mets last season. The move likely puts Báez back at shortstop after he finished the year at second base while playing alongside good friend Francisco Lindor with the Mets. The Tigers had been looking for a shortstop since it went 77-85 this season, finishing third in the AL Central behind the Indians and White Sox. Báez was selected by the Cubs with the No. 9 overall pick in the 2011 amateur draft. The two-time All-Star made his big league debut in 2014, quickly becoming one of baseball's most popular players with his big-time power, slick defense and aggressive baserunning. In his first full season in the majors in 2016, Báez helped the Cubs win it all for their first championship since 1908. He batted .290 with 34 homers and 111 RBIs in 2018, finishing second to the Brewers' Christian Yelich in voting for NL MVP.

EU wants 'proof' Peng safe in China



The European Union said Tuesday that it wants China to release "verifiable proof" that tennis player Peng Shuai is safe and to conduct a thorough and transparent investigation into her sexual assault allegations. Peng, a three-time Olympian and former top-ranked doubles player, dropped out of public view after accusing a former Communist Party official of sexual assault. Peng only has had a few direct contacts with officials outside China since she disappeared from public view earlier this month. She told Olympic officials in a Nov. 21 video call from Beijing that she was safe and well. "Her recent public reappearance does not ease concerns about her safety and freedom," an EU spokesperson said. Peng made the sexual assault allegation online against a former member of the Communist Party's ruling Standing Committee, Zhang Gaoli. The player's post was removed within minutes, and she stopped appearing in public. Peng adds to a growing number of Chinese businesspeople, activists and ordinary people who have disappeared from public view after criticizing party figures. —AP



Tiger Woods said Tuesday during his first news conference since his horrific car crash in February that he's "lucky to be alive." DOUG FERGUSON/AP

GOLF COMMENTARY

Some better than none

Whatever Woods can bring to the course will be cherished

By Doug Ferguson

Associated Press

NASSAU, Bahamas — The only certainty about Tiger Woods is that he won't be playing very much golf, and that's if he decides it's worth trying to scale a mountain taller than all the previous ones.

"Making progress," he wrote to accompany a video of his swing he posted on Twitter two weeks ago.

"I'm as far from that," he said Tuesday when talking about taking on Jon Rahm and Collin Morikawa and Rory McIlroy in the biggest events on the toughest golf courses.

Woods walked into the room at Albany Golf Club without a noticeable limp as he climbed onto the stage and took his seat behind a microphone. He left the stage a little more gingerly, and conceded his leg and back were aching just sitting there.

"We all want to see him back. We all want to see him healthy and playing like the Tiger Woods we've seen for 20 years," Harris English said.

Those days were fading with age, and they probably are gone due to a badly damaged right leg stemming from a car crash in the Los Angeles suburbs some 10 months ago. Woods mentioned the possibility of amputation in the early stages of being hospitalized.

This is a slow road back before he can even think about the climb.

So much chatter is on the Masters in April, without consideration that Augusta National might be the toughest course to walk of any tournament he plays. Woods said he would love to return to the British Open at St. Andrews, where the steepest climb is crossing the Swilcan Bridge.

Woods has ruled out being a full-time player, and the argument can be made he already was headed in that direction. He played only 13 events on the PGA Tour in 2019, the last time he was healthy and the world wasn't in the throes of a pandemic.

The best-case scenario is a schedule geared around the majors, similar to Ben Hogan's in the 1950s after his near-fatal car accident. Hogan was 37 when he won the 1950 U.S. Open. Woods turns 46 at the end of next month.

Would it be enough to satisfy his legion of fans for him to play only a few tournaments a year?

The short is yes. Because even a little Tiger is better than no Tiger at all.

"The PGA Tour is in such a good spot with these young guys. Tiger is only going to help draw more fans to the game when he's playing," English said. "We haven't had him for the last year and it's been doing great. He got us to where we're at. Any time he can play just adds interest and adds intrigue and puts golf in the national media."

Abraham Ancer might become a footnote in history as the last player to face Woods in match play. It was Sunday singles at Royal Melbourne in the 2019 Presidents Cup, and Woods hit the ball as crisply as he did all year and won on the 16th hole.

In a loss, it was a special memory for Ancer.

"I was happy I got to experience him at a high level in a high-pressure match. It was cool for me, and I learned a lot," Ancer said.

Equally memorable was the first time Ancer played in the same tournament as Woods, at Torrey Pines in 2018, and he wound up in the group behind him starting the final round on the back nine. Ancer recalled seeing "mayhem."

"Any time Tiger shows up at an event, it's completely different, no matter how he's

playing," Ancer said. "He transforms events."

Think of what now is the John Deere Classic, a sleepy Midwestern tournament until Woods played in his third event as a pro in 1996 and had a chance to win. The Quad City golf community has been buzzing ever since, even though Woods never returned.

Woods made one appearance at the Valspar Championship, and the gallery was standing 12 rows deep around some of the tees. He finished one shot behind. The Innisbrook crowd remains robust. Some who went for the first time must have liked what they saw.

"Anyone who's moved the needle or changed the game so much, to still be a part of the game, will bring people to it," Xander Schauffele said. "Whether it's once, twice or three times a year, there's just a level of excitement. I was lucky to play with him a few times. I can see what he does to people, and to venues."

It's the concept of a rising tide lifting all ships, and there's no tide like Tiger Woods.

The first step is getting him back in the water, and that's no small task.

He has been down a similar path before, most notably the progress he made from four back surgeries in a span of three years. He contended at tournaments (Valspar), then at majors (British Open at Carnoustie, PGA Championship at Bellerive) and then he won the Masters.

"I don't see that type of trend going forward for me," Woods said, another sobering comment from his news conference. "I won't have the opportunity to practice given the condition of my leg and build up. I just don't. I'll just have a different way of doing it and that's OK and I'm at peace with that. I've made the climb enough times."

At this point, no one should be looking for another Mount Everest. They just want to see Tiger, even if for just a little while.

CFP RANKINGS

After big win, Wolverines vault to No. 2

By Matt Murschel

Orlando Sentinel

Fresh off its monumental win over Ohio State, Michigan landed at the No. 2 spot in the penultimate edition of the College Football Playoff rankings released Tuesday night.

It's the highest ranking for the Wolverines (11-1), who reached No. 3 in 2016, and comes on the heels of their 42-27 victory over the Buckeyes.

Michigan can secure its first outright Big Ten title since 2003 by defeating No. 13 Iowa in the Big Ten championship game on Saturday night.

Michigan can secure its first outright Big Ten title since 2003 by defeating No. 13 Iowa in the Big Ten championship game on Saturday night.

Georgia (12-0) took the top spot for the fifth straight week after blanking Georgia Tech 45-0. The Bulldogs appear to be a lock for one of the four semifinal spots even though they still face Alabama in the SEC championship game on Saturday.

The Crimson Tide (11-1) remained at No. 3 after needing a fourth-quarter rally and four overtimes to get past Auburn. Alabama would need a win over Georgia to avoid falling out of the top four.

Cincinnati (12-0) also stayed put at No. 4. The Bearcats, who hope to become the first Group of Five team to qualify for the semifinals, face No. 21 Houston in the American Athletic Conference championship on Saturday.

Oklahoma State (11-1) moved up to No. 5 with its 37-33 win over Oklahoma. The Cowboys will play for their first Big 12 title since 2011 when they take on No. 9 Baylor (10-2) in the Big 12 championship on Saturday.

Notre Dame (11-1) remained at No. 6 after wrapping up its regular season with a 45-14 win over Stanford. The Fighting Irish remain in the playoff mix but need wins by Georgia and Baylor to make it happen.

Ohio State, Ole Miss, Baylor and Oregon round out the top 10.

These are the fifth of six weekly rankings released by the 13-member selection committee, with the final standings revealed Sunday, Dec. 5. Those rankings will determine the four semifinalists and the teams participating in the New Year's Six bowl games.

The two semifinals, which rotate annually, will occur at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas and the Orange Bowl in Miami on Friday, Dec. 31.

The Peach (Dec. 30), Fiesta (Jan. 1), Rose (Jan. 1) and Sugar (Jan. 1) bowls host the rest of the New Year's Six games.

If Cincinnati doesn't qualify for the semifinals, the Bearcats will earn an automatic spot in one of the New Year's Six Access bowl games as the top-ranked conference champion from the Group of Five.

The College Football Playoff national championship game is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 10, at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

CFP rankings (Tuesday)

Rank, team	Record
1. Georgia	12-0
2. Michigan	11-1
3. Alabama	11-1
4. Cincinnati	12-0
5. Oklahoma State	11-1
6. Notre Dame	11-1
7. Ohio State	10-2
8. Ole Miss	10-2
9. Baylor	10-2
10. Oregon	10-2
11. Michigan State	10-2
12. BYU	10-2
13. Iowa	10-2
14. Oklahoma	10-2
15. Pittsburgh	10-2
16. Wake Forest	10-2
17. Utah	9-3
18. NC State	9-3
19. San Diego State	11-1
20. Clemson	9-3
21. Houston	11-1
22. Arkansas	8-4
23. Kentucky	9-3
24. Louisiana	11-1
25. Texas A&M	8-4

WEATHER**WEDNESDAY**

SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

THURSDAY

SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

FRIDAY

SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

SATURDAY

SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

SUNDAY

SUNRISE

NOON

SUNSET

Partly sunny and
seasonable. West
wind at 5 to 10
mph. Rain and
snow showers are
possible
overnight.

HIGH**44°****LOW****32°**

Mostly cloudy and
milder, chance for
morning rain or
snow showers and
then afternoon
rain showers,
becoming breezy.

HIGH**51°****LOW****35°**

Partly sunny, very
breezy and
cooler.

HIGH**43°****LOW****25°**

Mixed clouds and
sunshine, chance
for a rain or snow
shower, quite
breezy.

HIGH**42°****LOW****23°**

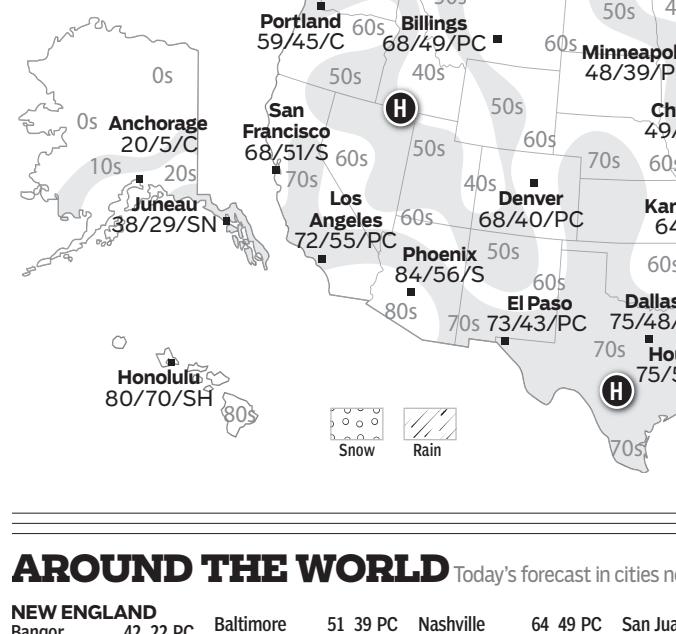
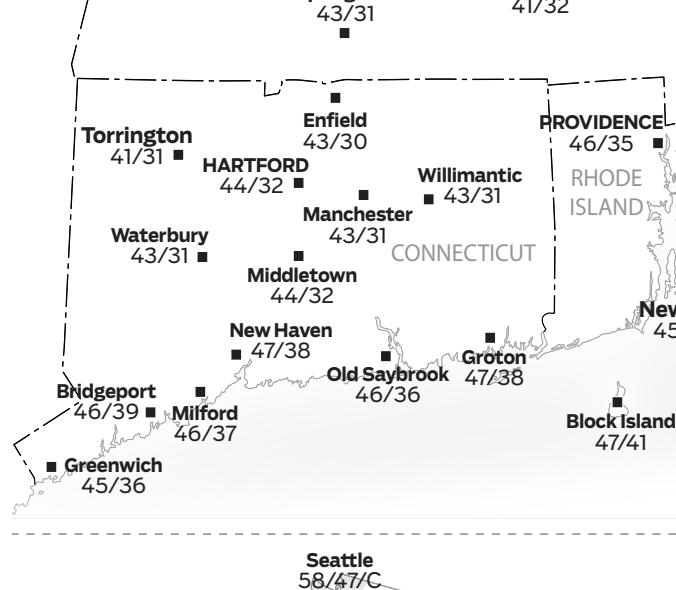
Thickening
cloudiness in the
afternoon, breezy
at times.

HIGH**40°****LOW****33°****CONNECTICUT WEATHER**

For the latest weather news
throughout your day.

courant.com/weather**YOURCAST**

Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND

Bangor	42 22 PC	Baltimore	51 39 PC	Nashville	64 49 PC	San Juan	87 76 SH	Budapest	47 43 C
Burlington	42 29 PC	Bismarck	59 34 PC	New Orleans	72 52 PC	Tucson	81 52 S	Buenos Aires	77 64 PC
Caribou	33 17 C	Boise	54 34 PC	New York	47 39 PC	Amsterdam	48 34 R	Dubai	86 68 PC
Concord	44 25 PC	Buffalo	44 39 C	Oklahoma City	70 43 S	Athens	61 48 S	Dublin	45 41 SH
Montpelier	35 27 PC	Charleston	70 48 S	Omaha	65 44 S	Bangkok	84 70 PC	Edinburgh	42 31 SH
Mt. Wash.	18 12 PC	Cincinnati	51 45 SH	Orlando	76 55 S	Barbados	87 75 S	Helsinki	23 16 PC
Portland	42 29 PC	Cleveland	45 44 C	Pittsburgh	43 42 C	Beijing	45 25 S	Hong Kong	68 55 PC
Woods Hole	47 35 PC	Indianapolis	48 41 SH	Raleigh	63 45 PC	Beirut	68 58 C	Istanbul	54 46 C
NATION		Jacksonville	51 47 PC	St. Louis	59 48 PC	Berlin	46 37 PC	Jerusalem	61 50 SH
Albany	41 32 PC	Las Vegas	74 49 S	Salt Lake City	54 35 PC	Tampa	74 58/S	Rome	59 48 R
Albuquerque	65 35 S	Miami Beach	78 68 S	San Antonio	76 57 PC	Miami	80 65/S	Seoul	36 25 S
Atlantic City	51 39 PC	Milwaukee	47 42 PC	San Diego	70 55 PC	Bermuda	70 62 S	Singapore	93 75 T

KEY: **S** Sunny, **C** Cloudy, **PC** Partly Cloudy, **R** Rain, **SH** Showers, **SN** Snow, **SF** Snow Flurries, **T** T-storms**FAIRFIELD PREP 21, GREENWICH 14****DARIEN 46, HAMDEN 19****CLASS LL—Quarterfinals**

MALONEY 49, BRISTOL CENTRAL 14
WINDSOR 62, CHENEY TECH 0
ST. JOSEPH 21, HAND 20 (OT)
MASUK 20, NAUGATUCK 17

CLASS M—Quarterfinals

ROCKVILLE 27, ELLINGTON 0
BRANFORD 7, AVON 6
TORRINGTON 37, GRANBY/CANTON 29
KILLINGLY 49, GILBERT 17
NORTHWESTERN/HOUSATONIC 14

CLASS S—Quarterfinals

BLOOMFIELD 50, MORGAN 18
CROMWELL/PORTLAND 29, NOTRE
DAME-FIELD 20
NEW FAIRFIELD 41, HOLY CROSS 7
ANSONIA 35, SEYMOUR 14

SUNDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE**CIAC STATE TOURNAMENTS****FOOTBALL****CLASS LL—Quarterfinals**

SHELTON 42, HALL 28
NEW CANAAN 38, SOUTHBURY 14
FAIRFIELD PREP 21, GREENWICH 14

CLASS M—Semifinals

NO. 5/WINDSOR (10-1) at No. 1/St. Joseph (10-1), 11:30 p.m.

CLASS S—Semifinals

NO. 5/BRANFORD (9-2) at No. 1/Killingly (10-1), 12:30 p.m.

CLASS M—Semifinals

NO. 5/BRANFORD (9-2) at No. 1/Killingly (10-1), 12:30 p.m.

CLASS S—Semifinals

NO. 5/BRANFORD (9-2) at No. 1/Bloomfield (11-0), 12:30 p.m.

CLASS S—Semifinals

NO. 3/ANSONIA (10-1) vs. NO. 2/CROMWELL/PORTLAND (11-0) at Pierson Park, Cromwell, 12:30 p.m.

TUESDAY'S COLLEGE RESULTS**MEN'S BASKETBALL****UCONN 72, MARYLAND-EASTERN****SHORE 63****WESLEYAN 58, KEENE STATE 56****WESTERN 71, ST. JOSEPH 61****WOMEN'S HOCKEY****TRINITY 2, CONN. COLLEGE 0****WEDNESDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE****FOOTBALL****HOLY CROSS at Central, 7 p.m.****Springfield at Trinity, 7 p.m.****Lehigh at Yale, 7 p.m.****Hartford at Winthrop, 7:30 p.m.****WOMEN'S BASKETBALL****YALE at Quinnipiac, 6 p.m.****Hartford at Providence, 7 p.m.****Trinity at RIC, 7 p.m.****Fairfield at UMass, 7 p.m.****THURSDAY'S COLLEGE SCHEDULE****FOOTBALL****SACRED HEART 70****WOMEN'S BASKETBALL****Sacred Heart at Lafayette, 7 p.m.****WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

Smith at Eastern, 6:30p.m.

MEN'S HOCKEY

Sacred Heart at Army, 7p.m.

AHL**STANDINGS**

Atlantic	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	PCT
Springfield	19	14	3	2	0	.789
Hartford	18	12	4	2	0	.722
Providence	17	8	5	3	1	.588
Hershey	17	8	6	2	1	.559
W-B/Scranton	18	8	0	2	18	.500
Charlotte	19	8	9	2	0	.474
Bridgeport	20	6	11	1	2	.375
Lehigh Valley	18	3	10	4	1	.136
North	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL</td	